



# SPANISH TALES,

TRANSLATED

## FROM LE SAGE,

—  
*SELECTED FROM OTHER AUTHORS:*

WHEREIN ARE CONTAINED

A DESCRIPTION OF MADRID, GRENADA, SARAGOZ  
SEVILLE, MILAN, PARMA, PALERMO,  
&c. &c.

—  
BY

MRS. FREDERICK LAYTON.

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“ In the gay morn of life, when all around  
Seems, to the youthful eye, enchanted ground ;  
When tempting novelty its witchery spreads,  
And Fancy plays the devil with our heads ;  
Then is the ardent hour of bold emprise,  
Ere frigid caution makes us coldly wise.”

KEATE.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

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## PREFACE.

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SPAIN and Sicily are now become objects of great interest to the English Reader, from the intercourse which the late war necessarily occasioned between those countries and our own.

The most interesting parts of Spain, with the manners of the inhabitants, are here fully depicted: nor is the formidable Inquisition forgotten. What it is to become the victim of the Grand Inquisitor, is here pourtrayed.

How sublime are the works of Nature in that interesting country ! In the North, what stupendous rocks !—what terrific cataracts foaming from on high !—and the

rocky-bedded rivers murmuring at their feet with the most abundant foliage, of Nature's choicest variety of tints, climbing from the base to the summit—displaying the bounty and magnificence of the Great Creator ! In the South, Time has spared many remains of the most beautiful Moorish architecture.— And must man remain a degraded being, amid scenes of the Creator's bounty and the magnificence of Art ? Where Nature and Science combine to make earth a paradise, must man still grovel in the dust ? Shall he exert his power, only to oppress his fellow man ? and what God intended to be divine, will he degrade below the brute creation ? Has England laboured to expel a tyrant ? and must the poor Spaniard still be degraded by the iron rod of monkish oppressors ? The soil is depopulated : the milk and honey of the land is devoured by the overwhelming number of monasteries. The monks are solely occupied with detecting and punishing

the faults of others, living regardless of their own. Perhaps a time may come, when their expulsion will be complete, as was formerly that of the Moors. Were trade and agriculture left unfettered, how different would the face of the country appear ! The Spaniards must have profited by their long and intimate association with the English. The day-star of Liberty, surely, has dawned upon Spain ; and, although obscured for a moment, the sky will gradually resume its brightness, and shed its blessings upon a free and enlightened people.

Sicily has to boast of a beautiful capital, and some of the grandest processions in honour of many of the Saints in the Romish Calendar. They flatter themselves with being possessed of the soul of Queen Anna Boleyn, who is now immured in the interior of Mount Etna, doing penance for the crime of having been instrumental in establishing the Protestant religion in England.—Hapless Anna ! She

was unfortunate in this life ; but, I trust, is now in the hands of her Redeemer.

A new era is now arriving for travellers. Instead of France, Italy, and Switzerland bounding the ambition of the travelled youth, his enlarged ideas embrace a far more extensive circuit. How gladly would Spain be traversed by the lovers of picturesque beauty and the stupendous remains of architecture, were her *posadas* filled with comforts and refreshments for the way-worn traveller, and the fear of the Inquisition annihilated ! The Donnas are ready to evince their partiality to the English ; but the Dons preserve a stately distance. Sicily, Malta, and the Greek Isles, are now an indispensable object of research to the young tourist. Who will now return from his travels, without a survey of Athens ? The nobleman who has not seen Athens now, is an ignoramus. To be quite in style, it is necessary to have a villa there.

How many instances of the conjugal attachment of English ladies, have Sicily, Malta, and the shores of Egypt, witnessed, in the wives of officers, who were ready to follow their husbands to battle and to death. The burning sands of Egypt, and a meridian sun, deterred not one lady from walking three miles to carry food to her husband, when she heard the camp had been nearly three days without food: though parched with thirst, she refused to taste a drop of the wine she was conveying to him, and contented herself with the foul water appropriated to the camels. Her spirit sunk not under excessive heat, thirst, and fatigue: the three miles were accomplished; and, beneath a spreading palm-tree, she enjoyed the society of her husband, shade, rest, and refreshment. When the ophthalmia darkened his eyes, she shared his danger and deprivations. Providence restored sight to both. At last, when afflicted with the fever of the

country, the wife was the first victim : the husband did not long survive. “ They were lovely and amiable in their lives, and in their deaths they were not divided.” Hear this, ye wanton ones ! who are a disgrace to your husbands and your sex ; and blush.

To amuse the mind, and interest the heart, should be the purport of a Novel. The Public require light reading ; and care should be taken, that such a taste does not tend to corrupt the heart. My aim is, to avoid the path pursued by those who endeavour thus to corrupt the mind, by instilling sentiments offensive to morality and decency in the works most generally read. Do we not see both blooming youth and declining age entirely engaged in light reading ? How careful, then, should the writers be, not to insert poison into them—poison of the most deleterious nature—not to kill the body, but the immortal soul.

How important is the task in civilized life, to bring the young forward in the paths of virtue, and “teach the young idea how to shoot!” Not less incumbent on humanity is it, to lead gently the aged, and infirm, down the declining path of life.—To tempt them to give up religion, when they most need the comfort of it, is a work only worthy of a fiend.

I fear it may but too justly be said, we live in a selfish age. How often have I been shocked, to see the sick, and the aged, and the infirm, neglected, and regarded as a burthen, by their nearest connections; with wishes for their death often escaping them!—as if we were born into this world only to think of ourselves, and had no duties to perform. Some, I must allow, I have seen most strictly perform their duty, and render themselves martyrs, to soothe the bed of sickness, or rock the cradle of declining age;

and, by devoting themselves for some years to such scenes, have lost all power or wish to enjoy society; as the world becomes a perfect blank to them. Such must look “to another and a better world” for their reward; as there only can they find it.

It is for the advantage of the present generation, that most respectable Writers have undertaken the task of Novelists. A few years since, heroines were disciples of Mary Wollstonecraft, and more suited to the Magdalen Asylum than companions for the drawing-room. The modest virgin, and the well-tutored mind, that had been taught to fear God and honour the King, could not peruse the pages, without having all their best feelings shocked. Two authoresses of that era brought their school to annihilation, from want of delicacy in their works. Parents could no longer confide children to the tuition of those, whose works they inter-

dicted them from reading. Some of the most modern writers have been sought out for the guardians and instructresses of youth: their works have created a school: the others pulled one down.

A want of attention to the education of children cannot be imputed to the present times. That parents are eager to marry their daughters as soon as they are introduced into life, seems to be the cause of the prevalence of adultery. A nobleman of high rank, now deceased, gave as a reason for introducing his daughter at the age of four years to the gaieties and pleasures of the world, “That women would have their *swing of pleasure* at some period of their lives; and it was safest for them to take it in childhood.”

It seems essential to the greater part of the female sex, not only to have a swing

of pleasure, but also to have a swing of admiration, and a swing of flirtations. If the daughter be married on her first *entré* into life, all this is yet to come; and in vain does the husband hope for domestic happiness: she must be always in public, and surrounded by *cecisbeos*: children cannot domesticate her, or make her love her home. One who has seen the world, and had her share of admiration, will sooner make a domestic wife, than the raw Miss just let loose from school. If the annals of Doctor's Commons be referred to, it will be found, that those who married at eighteen, or nineteen, were commonly there enrolled; rather than those who have had a satiety of the world, and of admiration, before they entered the temple of Hymen. There is an anecdote, deserving of record, of a wife whose husband did not venture to make his shame public, from the certainty that he could obtain no damages. She had engaged

to perform a part in a private theatre, and had to rehearse with a gentleman in private. As she could not obtain a sitting-room free from spectators, she took the gentleman into a bed-room, to rehearse with her (as she said) “out of modesty.” A person who heard of the circumstance, exclaimed, in the language of Mr. Hardcastle, “This may be modern modesty, but it is very like old-fashioned impudence!” This incident is supposed to have given rise to the lady’s subsequent fondness for admitting gentlemen to her bed-room.

Let not the female sex be taught, as part of their education, to be anxious to exhibit themselves before large assemblies, to make a display of their talents. It does no credit to a gentlewoman to rival a public actor, or a public singer. To be actresses in a private theatre, or to play and sing before large companies, must blunt the fine edge of

female softness and delicacy, and that retiring modesty which shrinks from the too ardent gaze of motley assemblies. Another anecdote recorded of a private theatre may not be *mal à propos*, or ineffectual in conveying a useful lesson to the female mind. Another of the lady-actresses made it a boast, that, owing to the fatigue she underwent in her part, she drank twelve glasses of port wine one evening, and did not feel in the least disordered with it. A lady who heard her, said, “She hoped she told a lie; for it was more creditable to her to tell a lie, than to be able to drink a bottle of port-wine without intoxication.” Such may be the fruits of the *innocent* amusement of private theatres!

Let daughters learn, that it is their brightest accomplishment to attend on the feeble declining steps of their parents—“to be eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame;”

and when the last dread scene of death approaches, to watch their dying bed, and smooth their passage to eternal day. As wives, let them not

“ Seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,  
Where bound to love, to honour, and obey.”

As mothers, let them watch the opening mind, cherish the virtues, and root out the vices: they then will live beloved and die respected, and leave a name, blessed upon earth, that is a goodly portion for their posterity.



TO THE  
EARL OF BUCHAN.

---

YOUR Lordship has always been distinguished for your love of literature, and obliging condescension, in encouraging, and bringing forward, those who aspire to literary fame. Such liberality has rarely been found to adorn the coronet, or to dwell in the breast of the favoured sons of fortune. Lord Chesterfield has gained deserved obloquy, by neglecting Dr. Johnson, in his Augean labour of the Dictionary, till assistance was of no use:—and what a blot will ever remain attached to the memory of Horace Earl of Orford, for neglecting the ever-lamented Chatterton! Had the better fortune of this distinguished youth led him to evince the brilliant scintillations of a mind, almost more than mortal, to your Lordship, he might have lived, and been

#### DEDICATION.

endowed with facilities, to expand a genius that would have outsoared all that Britain had ever beheld in her sons of literature ; for surely no one, at the immature age of nineteen, ever yet gave promise of such talents.

When I thus reflect on the neglect which the most brilliant talents have frequently experienced, I must be allowed to feel the liveliest gratitude to your Lordship, for allowing me, at the outset of my literary career, the distinguished honour of prefixing your name to the head of my Work.

Allow me to subscribe myself,

Your Lordship's much-obliged,

Most obedient, very humble Servant,

JEMIMA LAYTON.

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HISTORY

OF

## ESTEVANILLE GONZALEZ.

BOOK I.

Do not fear, gentle Reader, that (according to the example of Statius, who began his *Thebaïd*, written with the intention to charm all Europe, with what was the first cause of the foundation of Thebes) I shall begin the history of my life with telling you who were my ancestors in the days of King Solomon:—I do not pretend to go back so far;—indeed I should find myself puzzled to speak of my two grandfathers, of whom I have only heard very imperfect accounts. Of my father and mother I have a very clear knowledge; and, as I will inform you, their occupations were

totally different. My mother was solely employed in bringing the human race into the world ; my father in sending them out. —I am then, like Socrates, son of a female midwife ; and the Señor Estevanille Gonzalez, my father, was a venerable doctor of physic.

After having taken his degree in the University of Alcala, my father chose the city of Murcia for the place of his residence. There he began to practise with such happy success, that in less than two years he became the *fashionable* physician : not that his practice was new, for he blindly followed the rules of the Ancients ; so whenever the sick died in his hands, which happened very frequently, he said it was not *his* fault. One day he was called to a difficult labour ; where my mother operated before his eyes in so skilful a manner, that he was charmed. She was then young and handsome. He married her ; and I became the first fruit of their marriage. Two years after, they had a daughter. She was taken by a gen-

tleman and lady who lived near Murcia: they named her Inesilla, a name she has rendered very famous, as you shall see, in the sequel.

As the wives of physicians commonly die before their husbands, my father lost *his* before I had attained my ninth year. I was then put to board with the best schoolmaster in the city, who taught me the rudiments of Latin. I was already qualified for the third class in the University of Salamanca, where they talked of sending me, to finish my studies. My father falling sick, treated himself according to the rules of Hippocrates, and soon left my sister and myself orphans. He appointed for our guardian, Master Damien Carnicero, a brother of my mother, and the most famous surgeon of Murcia. My uncle imagining I should prefer following *his* profession to that of my father, who, although famous as he was, did not die rich, made me quit my school, and took me to his house, as an apprentice.

He obliged me at first, like all the apprentices, to wash the shop, draw the water from the well, wash the linen for the shaving, and heat the irons for curling the hair and mustachoes. I had now entered my fourteenth year, and was a sprightly light-hearted lad, which gained me the appellation of *The Good-humoured*.

In about two months they taught me the use of the razor; and for my first essay, chance put into my hands a poor beggar, who came to be shaved for charity. My uncle and his head man were out, and I was alone in the shop. I made this unfortunate beggar sit upon an old stool kept for such sort of gentry: I put a towel under his chin, blacker than the chimney; after which I soaped his chin, his nose, and his mouth, so roughly, that the tears gushed from his eyes; and he made all the grimaces of an old ape tormented by his master. Matters were much worse when I came to use the razor; which, unhappily for the skin of the patient, was so

bad, that it took off the flesh, rather than the beard. "My little boy," cried out the poor wretch, who could no longer endure the misery to which I put him, "tell me, I pray you, if you are shaving me, or dragging off my flesh!" "I am doing both, my friend," I replied: "you have so thick and so harsh a beard, that it is impossible to shave you without cutting." By the time I had finished this handy work, my uncle returned. As soon as he beheld the face of this poor creature, all gashed as it was, he could hardly help laughing: however he kept his countenance, and gave him some *maravedis*, to make amends for the ill luck of getting into my hands. I suppose this beggar took care to tell all his comrades of my mode of shaving; for from that day, no other mendicant ever came to our shop.

My uncle reprimanded me, and, to punish me for having performed so ill, forbade me the use of the razor, without a new order. But, as he had not forbidden me

the use of the scissars as well as the razor, I was permitted, one morning, to cut the hair of a certain scholar who came to our house for that purpose: he was the son of a linen-draper. My uncle would be present, to have an eye upon me, and oblige me, by his presence, to pay more attention to what I was about. I began very well at first: I cut his hair downwards in shades, and all went on well; when, forgetting he had ears under his hair, I cut off a piece of one, with the scissars. He set up a violent outcry: and my uncle no sooner learnt the cause, than he gave me twenty curses, and at least as many kicks. After this *mild* correction, which, however, I deserved, he applied some balsam to the wound, and took the patient home himself to his father; to whom he said, it was done carelessly, and he had punished me so severely, he had left me half dead in the shop. The merchant, reflecting it was done, and could not be undone, paid what my uncle required, and pardoned me. I did not get off with only

the blows Master Damien had given me: he added to the interdiction of the razor the disuse of the scissars also, and not to do any act of surgery, under pain of a sound lashing: so that it followed, of course, I was obliged to return to my first occupation.

But the concatenation of second causes was such, I could not help counteracting them. One day after dinner, when I was alone with my uncle, there came a man above six feet high, an ill-looking rascal, with the air of a bully: this swaggering fellow was already in the shop, and the end of his sword was trailing in the street: he had his hair platted, and a cocked hat adorned with an old feather; and the two ends of his mustachoes extended on both sides quite to his temples. I could not look at him without trembling. "Master Damien," said he to my uncle, "I beg you will dress my mustachoes." My uncle immediately ordered me to heat the irons. When they were hot, he made the bravo sit down in an arm-chair, and dexterously adjusted one side; and was

setting about doing as much for the other, which he had already taken to curl, when, hearing a noise in the street, and opening his shop door to learn what it was, he saw some men preparing to fight, and recognised amongst them one of his best friends : at this sight he was no longer master of himself, but ran to his friend's assistance, leaving the bravo in the state in which he was ; that is to say, with one mustacho on high, and the other hanging down.

The quarrel lasted so long, that the bravo, tired of waiting for my uncle, who did not return, said to me, " My friend, little boy, are you not man enough to finish what your master has begun ?" I was piqued at the question ; and thinking I could not, without disgracing myself, say *no*, I had the impudence to say *yes* : I did more ; to shew I had not boasted of more than I was able to do, in putting the finishing stroke to a mustacho, I drew out of the fire a fresh iron, which was red hot, and, applying it under the nose of the bravo,

burnt his upper lip, with part of the curl that I had so rashly undertaken to dress. He set up a hideous cry, which resounded through the house ; and rising in a fury, “Son of a hundred goats!” he exclaimed, “do you take me for a St. Lawrence?” At the same time he drew his tremendous sword, to run me through the body ; but before he could execute his design, the son of my father had gained the door, and fled so quickly, that in less than a minute he found himself at the farther end of the city :—so true is it, that flight is quite a different thing from running.

I concealed myself with a mercer, who was my uncle on my mother’s side ; and when I found myself in security there, I said, “ Seek wherever you will, I am safe here.” I related the adventure to the mercer, who could hardly help laughing ; when looking at the irons with which I had so adroitly performed my work, and which I still held in my hand, he perceived a part of the hair sticking to them, so long, and so harsh, it

would have served for a brush. I remained in my asylum till next day ; when my uncle, who did not doubt I should take refuge with the mercer, came to look for me. He told me that the bravo, after having exhausted his anger, and uttered a thousand imprecations against me, allowed himself at last to be appeased, by the concessions of my uncle.

I returned home with my uncle ; and he became by degrees perfectly satisfied with me. I learnt to shave with dexterity ; to cut hair well, without touching the ears ; and to give a good air to a mustacho, without broiling my patient to death. I became, at length, a skilful bleeder. The first time, indeed, that I tried, I bled a soldier. Having heard say that Hippocrates, in his essay on phlebotomy, recommends to surgeons to make a large orifice, I made one that rather appeared a stroke of a lance than a lancet, it was so large a slash for an arm.

I could not be better anywhere than with Master Damien, to learn to become a

good butcher, rather than a good surgeon ; and I have been a hundred times astonished that there were patients mad enough to put themselves into his hands. Bred up in the old practice of surgery, he most scrupulously adhered to all its precepts. I must relate some circumstances to you, to give you an idea what sort of man my uncle was. For example ; when he bled, he cut the vessels slanting, and tied them with silk twist ; or cauterized them with hot irons, to stanch them. If gouty people consulted him, he pricked their joints with a number of needles, set like a brush ; and to prick the king's evil in the best style, he used needles with divided points.

Would you know how he stopped the bleeding at the nose ? He made two slanting incisions, in the form of St. Andrew's cross, which extended all over the back of the head. For the sciatic gout, he applied various strong caustics, upon the buttocks, the haunches, and the thighs. He cured a head-ache by putting a hot iron to both

sides of the nose, the temples, the cheeks, and under the chin. In short, fire was his specific, to *heal* all sorts of disorders. He did not even spare the dropsical: he burnt their stomach and their thighs. It sometimes happened he had refractory patients, who shewed so much repugnance to his hot irons, that he could not induce them to submit to the operation. Then my uncle, to humour their *want of resolution*, employed a remedy *milder* than fire, by burning their flesh with spirits or hot oils: if they did not like that species of suffering better, as he abounded in variety of nostrums, it was gunpowder, quicksilver, or melted lead.

The desire my uncle had I should learn so excellent a trade, made him commonly take me with him, to see him perform his operations; which, however, only served to give me a horror of them. I should have preferred suffering all the ills in the world before I would complain, for fear of being obliged to try his remedies. Master Damien was the principal surgeon in the hospital at

Murcia, and it was there I commonly went with him, to see him broil his patients alive. One fine morning I found myself alone near the bed of a dropsical patient, on whom he had been trying all his various experiments of burning. The poor wretch was so burnt with fever and thirst, that he called out with might and main for a little water to cool his tongue, as his thirst was intolerable. I could not resist his importunity; although I had better have been inexorable. I gave him a large pitcher, nearly full: he seized it with avidity, and drank it to the last drop: but he had no sooner swallowed this comforting draught, than he was seized with a shivering, which cured his dropsy;—for he died. I was sorry to have shewn him so much compassion, since it had ended fatally; but I was not so overwhelmed with grief, at this accident, as to be incapable of profiting from it. Under the pillow of the deceased lay his breeches, out of which hung the strings of a purse: I felt an inclination to take it; and the temptation was so strong, as to overpower me. I drew

out a purse that did not appear empty, and, hiding it quickly in my pocket, I went without loss of time out of the hospital ; where I left the deceased, to whom I was so unexpectedly become heir, without his making a will in my favour. Impatient to see the amount of my inheritance, I could not go far without stopping to look at it ; and I got into the first place that appeared retired enough. I untied the strings of the purse, in which were thirty-five doubloons, as bright and shining as if just from the mint ; and a bit of paper, in which was a ring set with brilliants, which I supposed was valuable, although I did not much understand precious stones.

What a treasure for a lad who had never yet had any money ! I believed my fortune already made. "With so much riches," said I to myself, " I cannot do better than depart immediately for Salamanca, to finish my studies, and go through a course of philosophy : I shall make there the appearance of a prince. It is much more proper to

come to this decision, than to continue in the vile trade I follow: henceforward I abandon surgery more ancient than modern, and determine on quitting Murcia instantaneously." In short, I would not even take leave of my uncle, who would without doubt be averse to my going; and I immediately got into the road to Salamanca. I followed the course of the Segura without any thing happening to me. Just when I began to find myself fatigued, I arrived at the village of Molina, where I resolved to pass the night. I had already walked four leagues; which was a pretty good performance, for a first day's travelling, to one who never made the least excursion before from his native city. The innkeeper, where I went to take up my abode, seeing a traveller on foot, without a horse, without a sword, and but humbly clad, thought I should not spend much in his house. With this idea, he said to me, with a familiar air, "Young gentleman, I do not suppose you have a great deal of silver; and I imagine you will make yourself very contented this

evening with a little bread and cheese for your supper." This address offended me. "My good host," I replied, giving him a tremendous fierce look, "learn, that if I have not silver, I have gold." As I said these words, I drew my purse from my pocket, and shewed him a handful of dubbloons.

The host appeared surprised at this exhibition: he took one of the pieces, which he examined, and could no longer doubt its being really gold. "Ah, ha! little rascal," said he, putting his finger to his nose, "you have robbed your father! I see plainly you have taken a fancy to travel, and see the world; and, to enable yourself to fare well by the way, you have put your claw upon the hoard of money of the good man." "You are deceived in your suspicions," I said: "my father and mother are dead. These dubbloons, that you see, have been given me by my uncles and aunts, who have subscribed to enable me to go to Salamanca, to finish my studies, that I have begun at

Murcia, where I was born." "On this score," said the host, "your relations have been very imprudent, to send you so far, all alone, loaded with gold; and, by the slippers of St. Francis, fourscore leagues from your home! If you will take my advice, you will continue your route, to-morrow morning, along the river, to Cruz de Caravaca; there you can go with a muleteer, who will conduct you to Ciudad Real, from whence you may proceed, by the same conveyance, to Salamanca in five or six days." I thanked my host for the good advice he gave me, which I determined to follow. Again it was a question about supper: I asked him what provisions he had. "I have nothing but cheese," said he; "but there is a rich neighbour in the village, who brings up poultry, that he sends to market at Cartagena. I will go and buy two chickens of him, of which I will make you an excellent fricassee; with that you will have good bread, and the best wine of La Mancha." "You promise well," I said. "And I will keep my word," he answered: "I know well

that I speak like all my class ; but I will let you see, that there is in one village, at least, in Spain, a host who treats his company well."

It is true, I had cause to be satisfied with what he brought me, as well as with his conversation : he had a very lively imagination, and, contrary to the ordinary custom of Spanish innkeepers, was an honest man ; which he gave me good reason to think, by the conversation we had during supper ; for he seated himself at table with me, to help me eat the two chickens. He told me, in a laughing way, of all the rocks and precipices I should meet with in Salamanca ; and, without encroaching too much on the province of a teacher of morality, he advised me carefully to avoid them. The next morning, when I took leave of him, he wished me every prosperity ; and said to me, with the most serious air in the world, “ Señor Scholar, to avoid the snares to which your extreme youth will expose you, I have thought proper to make you this

present." In saying these words, he gave me a small box, in which was a ball of thread, with a needle put across it. Surprised at so extraordinary a present, I asked him why he gave it to me. "It is," he replied, "to serve you on three occasions. Sew up your mouth, when you are tempted to speak improperly; sew up your purse, when, by an excess of generosity, you would be at a ridiculous expense;—for the third sewing up," said he, "I leave you to guess."

I set up a burst of laughter at this whimsical idea; and, taking the box, with many thanks, I promised my host to keep it carefully all my life, to preserve the remembrance of him and his excellent advice. I immediately set off along the road; and, following the course of the river, I arrived, at the end of the day, at Cruz de Caravaca; where I found out a muleteer, who, for a sum agreed upon between us, undertook not only to feed and convey me to Ciudad Real, but even to Salamanca. I was delighted to find myself at last in this delightful city,

in which I had so much wished to be. I went immediately to the quarter in which the University stands: there, addressing myself to an old one-eyed bookseller, who was waiting upon his customers in the shop, I asked him to shew me some good boarding-house of a Professor. "If you wish for one," said he, "who is very learned, and who feeds his scholars well, I advise you to choose Dr. Canizarez: he is quite the man for you: he lives there, just by," shewing me a house two doors from his: "you will thank me for having recommended this Doctor; for he keeps so excellent a house, his worst meals are quite feasts."

I implicitly believed the old bookseller, and went immediately to Señor Canizarez, who, looking upon me as a new arrival who might come to him, was extremely civil. He was a large withered figure, with a black beard, high cheek-bones, and hollow sunken eyes. "Very extraordinary," said I to myself, "for the master of the house, of which so much boast is made of the kitchen, to

### ESTEVANILLE GONZALEZ.

be so thin ! It is, perhaps, his constitution ; for I have often heard my uncle say, there are many men, nothing but skin and bone, and yet have such enormous appetites, they could eat the devil and his horns."

Canizarez asked me, who I was, whence I came, and what brought me to Salamanca. And when I had given satisfactory answers to all his questions, he said to me, " Señor Scholar, I hope you will not repent placing yourself as a pensioner in my house." After saying this, he conducted me to a small bed-room at the top of the house, in which was no other furniture than a chest of drawers, two chairs, a table, and a stump bed. " Behold," said he, " your apartment ! You may bring your clothes here when you please." " I have no clothes," I said ; " but, thank heaven ! I have enough to buy them ; and, to put an end to all uneasiness on my account, I will pay you the first quarter beforehand." My Doctor made no objection to that : and he no sooner told me he had forty pistoles a-year from each boarder,

than, drawing out of my purse twenty dou-  
bloons, which I took great pains to make a  
display of before him, I gave him five,  
which made the quarter's board.

He examined carefully these double pis-  
toles, one after the other, and pocketed  
them, well satisfied ; assuring me nothing  
should be wanting, on his part, to make me  
one of the best scholars in the University.  
He was anxious to know who had educated  
me at Murcia, and what I was equal to.  
He examined me in liberal knowledge, and  
pronounced I was fitted for the third class  
in the University. After having so much  
flattered my attainments, he promised to  
get me received into the class without exa-  
mination ; the tutor of which he assured  
me was his particular friend. He was after-  
wards proceeding to exhort me to study the  
Belles Lettres ; but the supper-bell ringing,  
we descended immediately, from my cham-  
ber, into the hall ; where there was, as in  
a refectory, a long table, at which were  
seated ten or a dozen scholars, pretty near

my own age, except two, who appeared about twenty.

I bowed to all these gentlemen, as I entered; and having seated myself among them, I began to observe their several messes, which were all alike. It was *meager* day. Each one had before him a piece of bread of three ounces, with two dishes; on one of which were two roasted onions, and on the other a handful of nuts. I was astonished at the frugality of this repast, which did not accord well with the eulogium the bookseller had made on the Doctor's good housekeeping. "Nevertheless," thought I to myself, "perhaps we fast this evening: I shall console myself with the hope of having better fare on other days." They brought me my dishes, with the bread; and my half-pint of allowance, which was wine so diluted with water, that I preferred pure water to this disgusting beverage. When hungry, one is content with any thing. I devoured my bread and my onions, and cracked my nuts, with so much eagerness, that

the Doctor perceived I was a sharp-set young fellow. My comrades did quite as much honour as myself to the collation : all was so well eaten, every crumb dispatched, that there did not remain fragments enough for a sparrow.

Supper being ended, the young men went into the court to take the air : I followed them, and made myself acquainted with all. I attached myself particularly to the eldest, who, having taken a great fancy to me, asked me who could have been so much my enemy as to advise me to put myself to board with Dr. Canizarez. I replied, it was an old book-seller who lived two doors from hence. "Ah ! the old one-eyed rascal !" cried the scholar, bursting out a-laughing ; " the tormentor made a jest of you. He knows very well how we fare ; and all the neighbourhood know it equally well, who talk of nothing else but our poor living." " I perceived," I said, " at supper, I was not in a good inn ; and I do assure you, that to-morrow I should have sought out a better, if I had not

been fool enough to pay a quarter beforehand."

" I should long ago have left this old Doctor," said he, " if the reasons for remaining with him had not been more powerful than my wish to quit him." " Ha ! what reasons," said I, " can prevail over hunger ?" " I will tell you," replied he : " Dr. Canizarez is no less learned than he is avaricious : he possesses all the Greek and Latin authors ; and I assure you, if he gives us bad cheer, he makes amends, by teaching us much valuable knowledge : *that* makes me overlook his nuts and his onions."

" You comfort me," said I to the scholar : " I am a man, like yourself, willing to reconcile myself to frugality, to become a virtuoso."

Whilst I was holding this conversation with this senior boarder, whose name was Don Ramirez de Prado, and who was studying philosophy, we heard the bell ring for our going to bed. We parted immediately,

each having assured the other of his friendship. I went up into my chamber, and laid myself down upon my bed, which was harder than marble; and the sheets were the coarsest linen, sewed together still more coarsely. However, in spite of the hardness of the bed, and in spite of the seams, which made furrows in my limbs, I slept like a marmot, till nine in the morning. As soon as I awoke, I got up; and whilst I was dressing myself, the Master came into my room, followed by a man, whom he introduced to me, saying, "This is the tailor of my boarders, who is come to offer you his services: he is a good workman, and, moreover, so scrupulously honest, that he will not wrong you of an inch of materials." As I wanted some clothes, I ordered the tailor to make me some; and taking out six double pistoles, which I gave him, I made him promise to furnish me in two days with a complete suit. Scarcely was the tailor gone out of my room, than I found it was dinner-time. I went into the hall, in which I had supped the night before; where all the boarders were

already assembled, and each seated in his place. Although I expected a very frugal repast, the viands that I saw surpassed my expectations. We were first of all regaled with soup, like that which is commonly given to a pack of hounds, to preserve their scent: the broth was quite clear, and there were floating in it crusts of mouldy bread: each scholar had a porringer before him, out of which he ate his portion with an appetite that astonished me; and for myself, though I had not yet learnt to bite of the bridle, I did not fail to empty my porringer. I, however, felt myself so well satisfied with this excellent wholesome soup, that I could not eat the portion assigned me of what followed: this was a little dish of tid-bits, or minced goats'-feet, where they had, I believe, put even the horns, they so scrached under the teeth. As for the other boarders, whom an eternal hunger consumed, they fell with so much eagerness upon the fricassee, that it all vanished in the twinkling of an eye.

After this repast, which certainly was not the most detestable I made during my stay with Dr. Canizarez, I went into the city to buy some linen, and all the books that were necessary for studying in the third class. I found, after all my purchases were made, there remained only twenty doubloons in my purse. "Courage, my good friend Estevanille :" said I to myself: "it seems your affairs are in a good train." "Twenty doubloons," thought I, "is still a good sum; and when that is gone, I shall have recourse to my diamond: that is always a resource. But tell me honestly, are you conversant in precious stones? You know very well you are not. Now own that you will find yourself a great fool, if your ring, upon which you reckon so much, should turn out a jewel of little value."

This last reflection caused me so much uneasiness, that I resolved to satisfy myself at once. I went to the grand abode of the rich merchants; and going into a jeweller's

shop, I shewed him my brilliant, and desired him to tell me, on his conscience, what he thought it was worth. The jeweller, after examining it, said it was worth a hundred pistoles. He then asked me, if it was to be sold. I told him, No; but, probably, it would soon. "Very well," he said; "when you wish to part with it, you have only to bring it to me, and I will give you a hundred pistoles." I went out, full of joy, from the jeweller's; and, looking upon myself as a little Croesus, I returned to my home, with my mind full of a thousand agreeable reflections.

"Señor Gonzalez!" said our Doctor to me, on seeing me return, "I have spoken to the Tutor of the third class, and, upon the recommendation I have given of your learning, he will receive you into it without examination. You may go to the College when you please." I chose to wait till I had my new clothes. The Señor Canizarez himself took me, one morning, to the University, and conducted me to the

chambers of the Licentiate Guttierrez Hostigador, head of the third class, who received us with a profound gravity. I had never seen the face of a pedant in which superciliousness was more strongly depicted than it was in the face of this Licentiate. "You see," said my master of the boarders, "the subject with which I would augment the number of your scholars." Then Guttierrez, putting his hand on my head, addressed me in these words: "My friend, I have but one word to say to you: if you are wise, and if you love study, we shall agree very well; but if you are idle, and a libertine, I can tell you, you will fare but ill with me."

I assured this tutor that I should always use my endeavours to make him satisfied with me." "That is enough," said he: "you may come into my class this morning. All that I shall recommend to you is, to be so attentive as never to lose one syllable that I say, for I never speak any thing but what is excellent." In saying these words, he left us. Dr. Canizarez returned home,

and I mixed amongst the scholars, who walked in the great court, where the Schools are. I ranged myself with the third class. As a new admission, I seated myself on the last bench, with a modest air; and, to begin with attracting the good-will of the Professor, I prepared myself to listen with all the attention that he had recommended.

I shall never forget the profound silence which reigned, all at once, in this class, as soon as he appeared; and, when he was seated in his chair, his grand appearance surprised me. The great Mogul, seated upon his throne, had less haughtiness than this pedant, upon whom all eyes were constantly fixed. He kept all the scholars at a distance: they were in continual dread before him, he was so very severe and strict. He was not satisfied with making himself feared and respected in the lecture-room; if he met them in the court of the college, and any one, from inattention, or any other cause, passed near

him without bowing, he called out in an imperious tone, "Sir! where is your hat?" and if the scholar did not make him an answer that satisfied his pride, he ordered his men, by whom he was always followed, to seize this insolent wretch, and throw him across the form, where they soon made him find his breeches were only fastened with one button.

In spite of the severity of this Professor, I studied under him six months; and became one of his best scholars. I employed, in truth, my time so well, that I could not fail to make considerable progress in polite literature. I did not content myself with going through all the duty of the Schools; I read incessantly the good authors that Doctor Canizarez took pains to make me understand, by able commentaries which he made upon the text, in so excellent a manner, that I did not learn less at home than in the college.

Much devoted as I was to study, I did not neglect walking, sometimes, by the side of the river Tormes; which, by its beautiful meanderings, makes the environs of Salamanca so delightful. I commonly partook of this pleasure with Don Ramirez de Prado; the principal scholar of whom I have spoken. He had good reason to prefer my company to that of the other students: he knew that I had money; and he borrowed of me: and it was I who always paid the expenses that occurred in our walks.

This Don Ramirez was a man who had gained some knowledge of the world before he came to college: he spent the days of leisure, often even the days of lectures, in certain houses where he learnt to live: he had made acquaintance with some handsome women, who were to polish his manners and amuse his idle hours, and, in return, plunder him: amongst these, was the Señora Dalfa, widow of a Doctor of Law; a woman of about five and thirty, with a good figure, and very lively manners. To

have still more powerful attractions for idle men, she had her husband's niece living with her, called Bernadina, whom it was hardly possible to see without loving.

One day after dinner, Don Ramirez proposed to me to accompany him on a visit to these ladies, saying, "Nothing polished a young man so much as the society of sensible lively women." I allowed myself to be easily persuaded by my companion, for we lived in great intimacy; and we both went to the house of the Señora Dalfa. She received us in a way that made me suppose my conductor was upon a good footing with them. The ladies overwhelmed me with civilities, because I was his friend; or rather, because they had resolved amongst themselves to draw me into an intimacy, to plunder me. We staid three hours with them, and the widow was extremely brilliant: she was full of a thousand witticisms:

Her mouth she could not ope,  
But out there flew a trope.

As for the niece, she spoke but little ; but she gave me such glances from her dark sparkling eyes, that I felt more pleasure from her than from all the witticisms of the aunt : in short, without knowing what love was, I became in love with Bernadina ; who was rather younger than myself, and who truly was a very handsome woman.

I was so absorbed with these charms, in returning to our house, that it was not difficult for Don Ramirez to perceive that I was entangled. "Señor Gonzalez," said he to me, "which is it, the widow or the niece ? for which of the two are you ?" "For the niece," I replied : "however, the aunt is very agreeable." "Your frankness," said he, "excites mine ; I adore the Señora Dalfa : thus we can both of us follow our inclinations without constraint, since we are not rivals.

If I had not seen these ladies again, my studies would soon have made me forget

them: but four days after, Don Ramirez said to me, "I have good news to tell you: you have made a conquest of Bernadina; she has confessed as much to her aunt, when I went to see them; and the Señora has made me the confidant. Being so much your friend, I think it a duty to let you know that you may profit by this discovery: if you do, as I have no doubt you will, pay so much attention to this girl as to infatuate her to marry you, you will make your fortune, and may live at your ease the rest of your days; for she is sole heiress to an uncle, by the mother's side, who is immensely rich, and has only two children, who are poor little sickly things: therefore, make love to her without delay: to-morrow I will take you there again. All that I am grieved about, is, that I have no money; if I had money I could prepare a little collation: women like that men should be at a little expense about them; and they think so much of these little attentions, that the happiness of their lovers often depends upon them."

I interrupted my companion here in haste. "No, my friend," said I: "the money necessary to regale our mistresses is all ready: I have still several double pistoles, and I am not in debt to any one." My dropsical patient was dead, and I had a mind to let his property fly. At the same time, I took out of my purse two doubloons, which I gave to Don Ramirez, and asked him if that would be sufficient. "Without doubt," he replied: "but softly, softly, I pray you: I see plainly, my young friend, you are too generous. I must put a check upon your prodigality: leave me to manage these matters. I will take upon myself to buy a collation, that, thanks to my management, shall cost you but little, and do you a great deal of credit."

I should have done well, upon this occasion, to have made use of the needle and thread which mine host at Molina had presented to me: but far from thinking I made a bad use of my doubloons,

I was very well satisfied with my companion for having theught of this party of pleasure.

We returned, then, to these ladies, who received me with still more politeness than at the first. They affected great surprise when we carried them the refreshments that Don Ramirez had provided; which consisted of several baskets of fruit, and many kinds of wine, all cooled with ice. "My children," said the Señora Dalfa to us, affecting to be much grieved, "you deserve to be scolded for putting yourselves to so much expense for us. You are young men, and have not more money than you want for your own expenses; and let me advise you to take care of it." "Madam," replied my friend, "it is not I who treat you; it is the Señor Gonzalez, who, thank God! is rich enough to give such entertainments every day without feeling them: he has neither father nor mother: master of his own actions, enjoying his own property, he is in the state

in which most young men would be, if they could choose."

I took my turn in speaking; and said to the ladies, that "what the fruit and wine cost was only a trifle, not worth thinking of." Upon which the Señor Don Prado made such an eulogium upon my generosity, in so fulsome a manner, that if I had not been wholly inexperienced, I could not have failed to observe there was an understanding between him and the two nymphs, and that their design was, amongst them, to ruin me: which did not fail to happen a short time after; for becoming every day more and more charmed with Bernadina, I made her so many presents, and gave them so many entertainments, that it bore hard on my purse. My doubloons disappeared one after another, and my ring went to the jeweller. I had not much money remaining; when Doctor Canizarez, perceiving that I was going the road to ruin, and fearing I should not have enough left, by

the end of the quarter, to pay him, asked me for that which was owing, and that which was nearly out. Offended with his distrust, though it was perfectly just, I paid him instantaneously, with contempt, and left the house indignantly, resolving to go elsewhere, and not wait to finish the quarter. I retired to a furnished apartment, that I hired in a distant part of the city, far away from the University. There, finding I had no more remaining than four pistoles, of all the wealth I had possessed, I took a firm resolution to abandon my studies, and my gallantries, that I could no longer continue: love had already estranged me from the college, and poverty cured me of my love. I would no more see the traitor Don Ramirez, nor the two wantons, who, in conjunction with him, had plundered me of all my wealth. In breaking off all connection with them, I felt myself in some sort comforted for having lost my money: as, since I had not them to witness and triumph in my unhappiness, I was less miserable.

One morning, coming out of the church of St. Stephen, my patron Saint, I met with a lacquey, in a very handsome livery, who spoke to me. I did not at first recollect him ; but after looking hard at him, I recognised him for one of my University friends. "How," said I, "Mansano ! you have then, as well as myself, bid adieu to the College. Perhaps you have, by some accident, had a falling out with the Licenciate Hostigador." "Exactly so," said he : it is the tyrant of the third class who is the cause of my bidding adieu to the Muses. That inflexible Professor, to punish me for having only once played truant, after having made me ask pardon before the whole body, would have me whipped, to satisfy his domineering spirit. I resisted — the ministers of justice appeared — I collared them — but what could my courage avail in so unequal a fight ! I gave them many hearty blows on the face with my fists, and kicks upon their legs ; and they repaid me, with usury, with blows on my bottom. Since that day I have never been to the College ; and

not wishing to be a burden to my parents, who are not rich, I have accepted the situation of footman to the Bishop of this city; who is an excellent prelate, and keeps a very good house: hence he may, in truth, be called the Prince of the Church. His palace is always full of nobility, and they find there a most admirable table: the provisions put upon his table, in one entertainment, would be sufficient to support a whole hospital for three days. His servants lead such happy lives, they have nothing to do, but to eat, drink, sleep, and amuse themselves; and after living with him nine or ten years, in this happy state of service, my Lord settles them, and enables them to live genteelly.

I congratulated Mansano upon his happy situation: and when we parted, I fell into deep reflection. I represented to myself the happiness of these men; and I repented ~~not~~ having said to him, that it would give ~~me~~ pleasure if he could get me received, upon the same footing, in the service of

his master. My vanity was a little hurt, that the son of a Doctor of Physic should not be above such a situation: but inevitable poverty stared me in the face, if I did not come to the resolution to go to service; and I at once resolved. I went the next day to ask for Mansano: who no sooner heard the cause of my visit, than he said, "Our prelate has himself no vacancy; but he wants a footman for his nephew, Don Christoval de Gaviria, who lives with him in the palace. I will speak for you to his lordship's steward; and I am sure, on my recommendation, he will place you about the young gentleman. Come again to-morrow," said he: "I shall then be able to tell you if you are likely to get this appointment, which will be very comfortable for you. Don Christoval is one of the most amiable young noblemen we have hereabouts. I wish that the thing may be brought about. I shall be very happy to be on the same footing, at the Bishop's, with a man who was my comrade at College."

I was not behindhand in politeness with Mansano. Although I had not, for some time, frequented the house of Señora Dalfa and her niece, I had so profited from their instructions, that I was well able to make compliments. I waited with anxiety the success of this negociation, which ended as I wished. My friend understood how to gain the steward to my interest; and he presented me himself to Don Christoval, who received me into his service.

After having been near two years apprentice to a surgeon, and ten months auditor in a class in the University, behold me now become valet to a young Nobleman. Don Christoval, my master, was turned of twenty: he was a handsome young man, of such sweet manners, that I began, from the first, to be pleased with him. It is true, that, on seeing me, he had said my appearance pleased him; and this might have helped, as much as his pleasing person and manners, to inspire me with liking to him.

The Bishop, his uncle, who had himself taken great delight in his education, was very fond of him, and made him now his own master ; so much so, that Don Christoval was at liberty to go wherever he pleased, without being required to give an account of his proceedings to any one. This liberty was very much to his taste : he was very partial to the soft sex, and was very willing, upon occasions, to have an opportunity of entering into an affair of gallantry. I, and an old *valet de chambre*, very grave and devout, composed all his domestics ; and as I was the one who appeared to him most proper to serve as an agent in an amorous intrigue, he honoured me with the office of being his *Mercury*. He had, besides, found it necessary to have another more experienced agent than myself, in hunting out beauties for him ; but I suppose he thought I was the most important auxiliary, as he chose me for his confidant. “Gonzalez,” he said to me, one day, “I have taken a liking to you ; and, as a proof of it, I will open my heart to you.”

At these words I made a low bow, to testify how sensible I felt of the honour done me: when my master went on, saying: "Know, my friend, that, by the mediation of one of the old women who go about in this city, with their rosaries in their hands, to offer to young women the homage of men, I have got acquainted with one of the most charming women in Salamanca. I have never spoken to her but once, and I die with impatience to see her again. Go and find out for me this *Pepita*; that is the old woman's name: this is her address"—putting a little paper into my hands:—"you will tell her that I am languishing, in the expectation of seeing again the lady to whom she has introduced me.

I judged from these words my master was violently in love: so, to make my zeal to serve him equal to the violence of his passion, I ran to find *Pepita*, who lived in a narrow back street, near the Cordeliers. To give you a proper idea of this old sorceress, you have only to represent to yourself a

woman who appeared at least turned of seventy, about three feet and a half high, nothing but skin and bone, with little sunken eyes redder than fire, and a mouth with the under jaw projecting so much, that it almost annihilated the upper. Such is the portrait of this beautiful Lady Abbess. She received me in a low room, which, dark and miserable as it was, was often resorted to, as the scene of unlawful pleasure.

When I had opened my commission to her, the kind old lady said to me: "My child, you may assure your lord, Don Christoval, that he shall to-morrow see the lady he loves: although it is not a matter without difficulty; for she must deceive a brother, who is a watchful spy over the conduct of his sister; and it is not an easy matter to elude his vigilance." "That is what my master is well aware of," said I; and presented to her a purse, in which were several pistoles. "He has charged me to give you this, to enable you to overcome all difficulties."

“ I should haughtily reject the money,” said she, “ if I were not convinced that your master’s intentions are perfectly honourable: but I am certain he is too amiable to have any other designs; and from the good opinion I have of him, I am willing to serve him. He shall to-morrow have a second interview with his mistress. Go and carry him this news, and leave me to count my rosary, that I was telling when you came in. Adieu, my chicken,” said she, chucking me under the chin with one of her withered claws. “ You are a very genteel looking young man. Were I only fifteen, I declare, by St. Agnes, I would marry you.”

I had no sooner given an account of my embassy to Don Christoval, than---to remove, doubtless, any unpleasant reflections my virtue might feel, in the honourable employment he had given me---he made me a present of ten pistoles; and assured me I should promote my own interest in attending to his business. This made me resolve, from henceforth, to prefer playing the game

of assistant to those in love, rather than the part of a lover ; since the first would enrich me, and the latter had ruined me.

My master was on the rack of impatience, till the time came for playing the part of the gentle shepherd. When the hour of our appointment was arrived, we both glided, under favour of the night, into the house of *Pepita*. The heroine of the assignation was already there. I did not see her when we first came in; for instead of following my master into the room where she was waiting, I remained with the old woman in a sort of antechamber, which was only parted off by a thin partition of wood; and I could therefore hear the greater part of what these lovers said. I gave an attentive ear to their conversation; and at first I derived some entertainment from it: but, at last, I thought I recognised the voice of the woman; and after listening some time, I no longer doubted it was *Bernardina*. I was agitated, and felt myself growing enraged, almost to madness. "Well, let the wanton," said I, "love *Don*

Christoval, and a thousand others besides ; what does it signify to me ? I no longer love her—her manners can no longer interest me !”

I felt myself enraged to the last degree, to find that this damsel, who had pretended so much reserve to me, was no better than a good-for-nothing baggage, at any one’s service ; and I therefore determined to shew myself to her, as she went out ; and was much comforted in the expectation of the confusion she must feel, to have me for a witness of her vile conduct. In short, I hoped to have a triumph in her shame : but I flattered myself with a false hope. I took care to make Bernadina see me : but far from being disconcerted by my presence, she assumed all her impudence ; and pretending not to know me, she went out with an assurance that struck me motionless with astonishment.

When my master and I were returned to the palace, this cavalier began to boast

of his good fortune; and after he had exhausted all he had to say in her praise, I began to speak. "I am quite charmed," said I, "that you are so delighted with Bernadina: I congratulate you." "How! Bernadina!" exclaimed he. "Ha! Who could have told you that was the lady's name? Is it possible *you* know her?" "Perfectly," I replied, "as well as the Señora Dalfa, her aunt, who, according to all appearances, is no better than the niece. In short, I knew well both one and the other; and if I had never seen them, I should not now have the honour of being your valet." "Gonzalez," replied he, "speak, I pray you, without an enigma." "There is no enigma here," I replied: "nothing can be more clear. I recognise, in the person that you have just met, the niece of an old lawyer, who is dead; and the widow and niece keep house together. I frequented, during three months, the house of these two princesses, who have eaten me out of a hundred pistoles, with which I intended to continue my studies: but what provokes me worst of all is, that Bernadina, this

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darling, who comes here without scruple to *Pepita*, makes a jest of me, for the loss of my money."

I pronounced these last words with an agitation that made Don Christoval laugh. Amused with the hardships of which I complained, he pretended to compassionate my grief. "Thou poor young man!" said he, with a tone of raillery. "In truth, Bernadina should have behaved better to one who shewed such elevated love to her. The first time that I see her, I assure you, Gonzalez, I will reproach her." I left my master (finding I could not detach him from her), well assured, let him amuse himself as much as he pleased at my expense, a time would come in which he would repent, in his turn, having been attached to such a woman. It is a pleasure I should infallibly have had, if I had lived five or six months longer with this young nobleman: but, by the immutable decree of Fate, or, if you please, by my own imprudence, I was turned away from the Bishop's, two days after, for the reason following.

There commonly came to dine at the episcopal palace, Marquises, Counts, and Gentlemen; so that it may be supposed I saw there a variety of originals. There was one among them, whose humour was to spit about, as one may say, quaint Latin quotations on all occasions. He was an old Knight, of whom it might be said, his head was an ill-arranged library. He had read at College the Latin Poets, of which he retained a great number of verses. He cited incessantly, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Persius, Tibullus, and Juvenal. It is true he very often confounded the authors; and this very day, for his misfortune, and for mine, he happened to repeat a passage in Horace for a passage in Persius. I was present, waiting among the Bishop's footmen. Perceiving that the Knight blundered, instead of shutting my mouth, I gave way to my natural vivacity; and, raising my voice: "Sir," said I to the Señor, "with your permission, the verses you have just been reciting are not in Persius, as you imagine; they are in Horace." I had no sooner let these words escape

me, than the Knight, looking sideways at me, replied with a furious and contemptible air: "Hold your tongue, you pitiful scoundrel! it is not respectful in a footman to correct me." "Why not?" said I; "as a footman I give you drink, and as a man of letters I correct you."

All the company, who were already but too well disposed to laugh, could not help bursting out at this sally, which only served to irritate the mistaken Knight. He demanded justice for my insolence; and immediately Don Christoval ordered me out of the room. I obeyed, supposing I should get off with being forbidden to appear again before this bad reciter of passages; but my master said to me in the evening, with a melancholy air: "Friend Gonzalez, I am very much mortified at the scene which has passed to-day: you would have done much better to have held your tongue, than to shew (so very ill-timed) that you are acquainted with Horace. By this piece of indiscretion you have banished yourself

from the palace. We cannot keep you any longer, after the affront that the Knight fancies he has received from you ; and which in fact he well deserves, for his incessant Latin quotations. He is a relation, with whom my uncle the Bishop of Salamanca, and myself, chuse to keep well, for various reasons. He is a mortal of so singular a character, and so scrupulous on the score of honour, that if I do not revenge him on you, he will never forgive me. I have therefore no alternative, but to part with you, although I like you. For your comfort, however, take these thirty pistoles. I give you this trifle to subsist upon, till you can get another situation."

In saying these words, he put into my hands a purse with that amount. I returned many thanks to Don Christoval, and took leave of him. I could only impute this misfortune to myself. I left the palace, after taking off my footman's clothes, and resuming those of a scholar.

I returned the same evening to my furnished lodgings ; which I again hired, to wait till I could get another place, with some good master. I had taken a liking to service ; for at present I knew nothing but the pleasant part of it. I went to dine and sup every day in an inn which was in the neighbourhood, where I found much good society. Many of the Clergy came there, and among others, a Lay-clerk of the Cathedral. I made acquaintance with this person, whose name was Vanegas. He was a very fat man, about thirty ; extremely jovial ; and his humour so conformable to my own, that we were pleased with each other at first sight. "What do you want ?" said he to me, one day :---what brings you to Salamanca ?" "I am," I replied, "without occupation, at present : it is only eight days since I was footman to Don Christoval, nephew to the Bishop of this city ; but two or three verses of Horace have turned me away." "How could that be ?" said the Lay-clerk, astonished at my words : "pray tell me this adventure." I related it to him : and when I had repeated

the circumstance which so much enraged the Knight, he shook all the tables that were in the room with a violent fit of laughing ; for he had naturally so full a voice, it sounded like a deep bell, when he spoke, laughed, or chanted. After having shaken himself with laughing, he became serious ; and assured me he would spare no pains to find me a good situation.

He did not seek in vain : " Friend Gonzalez," he said to me, a few days after, " I have found you a situation preferable to that you have quitted : the Licenciate Salablanca, Dean of our Chapter, wants a servant, who must be both his footman and his secretary. I think you will acquit yourself very well in these two situations." " I shall fill them to perfection," said I, " there is no doubt : you have only to make me acquainted with the character of the Dean ?" " He is a man," replied he, " of solid piety, although he has not that outward austerity which devotees commonly have : he is between fifty-five and sixty, very even-tempered, affable, and well-

bred. If you shew yourself attached to him, he will place confidence in you ; and you will, by degrees, promote your own interest in the house. We will go to see him, when we have finished our dinner. I will, to-day, establish you with this old clergyman, who holds more than a thousand crowns a year in benefices."

Vanegas was as good as his word : and when we went out of the inn, he conducted me to a small house, where the Licentiate Salablanca resided. "Señor," said he to the Dean, " I have brought the young man here about whom I spoke to you. Estevanille Gonzalez is a man of family, an orphan, whom misfortune has reduced to service. He has gone through the third class in the University, with great credit to himself. He is full of honour, liveliness, and integrity. You will find a treasure in this young man. I am his guarantee." " He cannot have a better," said the Dean : a good servant is a valuable present : I am obliged to you for introducing him ; and I receive him more willingly,

as his countenance pleases me." Vanegas, very well pleased to have succeeded in his undertaking, went away, and left me with the Dean. " Well, then, my friend," said my new master to me, " we shall live together. Heaven be praised ! I suppose you are not ignorant of the duty servants owe their masters : On my part, I know what masters owe their servants. Let us each scrupulously perform our duties : it is the means to attach us to each other. Look upon me as your father, and I will consider you as a son." At these words I threw myself at his feet, and assured him I would spare no pains to deserve his kindness. He raised me ; and changing the conversation : " Gonzalez," he said, " you are not now in an episcopal palace : you have gone from one extreme to the other : you only serve now a priest of the second order : you will not see upon my table abundance and delicacies : a soup, with boiled meat, serves me for my dinner ; and in the evening, I am satisfied with a single dish of roast meat." The Dean having said this, told me to go

and look for my clothes, and bring them to his house ; which order was executed in less than two hours time.

I found, on my return, the Dean supping in his parlour, conversing very familiarly with two servants he kept, and who took their part in the conversation. One was his cook, a little crooked old man ; and the other his housekeeper, who, from her great age and her ugliness, looked quite canonical. I took my part in the conversation : and to begin to discharge my office of butler, I went and stood by the sideboard, on which was a bottle of Port wine, with glasses, and a decanter of water ; and every time my master called for drink, I carried him his glass upon a waiter, and poured out the wine and water with such an air as shewed I had served my apprenticeship in a very good place. The dish of roast meat, with which he contented himself this evening, was a shoulder of mutton, of which he ate very little. When he had finished supper, he went into his chamber, to leave us

the parlour to sup in at our ease. The cook, the housekeeper, and myself, were soon seated. I was not long in forming acquaintance with them ; and in the conversation we had together, I took care to lead them to tell me *their* opinion of the Dean. "What happiness, my friend," said I, "to have such a master as our's ! What an air of goodness he has ! Does he always speak to you with so much sweetness as he did this evening ? Has he never any caprices—any gloomy fits—any ill humour ?" "No," said the little hunchback : "he has no inequalities. It is true that, at times, he appears grave, and lost in thought ; but that does not last long ; and his servants do not fare the worse. I have lived with other devotees, who are not of such good character ; and God knows what I have suffered with a Canon of Toledo ! Although he was very rich, he was of so violent a temper, that he would throw my fricassees at my head, when he found either too much salt or pepper in them." "Heaven be praised !" said Dame Leonella (that was the

old housekeeper's name), "the Señor Licentiate, our master, has not any faults ; he is only accused of being a little avaricious : but, as he is a clergyman, they very likely are deceived ; instead of hoarding up, as they imagine, he very probably gives his money, in secret, to the poor. And it is the best way : it is much better to give in secret, than by the sound of the trumpet."

They added to this description so much, that they gave me to understand I had for my master a good Israelite, with whom I should live very much at my ease. When we had finished our supper, which was soon done (a shoulder of mutton not amusing for a length of time three people with good appetites), I went into the Dean's room, whom I found upon his knees, before a large ivory crucifix, in an ebony frame placed on black velvet : he arose as soon as he had finished his prayer ; and as I perceived he was preparing to go to bed, I put myself in my place to attend him and help him undress ; begging him to excuse me,

if, as I was not much in the habit of waiting, I should not acquit myself with all the dexterity he might wish. I was not, however, so awkward as might be supposed, as Don Christoval had taught me to dress him very much to his satisfaction. While I was waiting, the Dean asked me several questions about my family ; and judging, by my answers, I was not born to the rank of a servant, he seemed to feel very much for me. "Unfortunate Gonzalez," he said, "to have, so early in life, lost your parents ! If it were not for that misfortune, you would not have been in the situation of a servant. Now, my child, since Heaven ordains it so, you must submit, without a murmur, to its will. On my part, I will do all I can to make your situation as comfortable as possible; and treat you in such a manner, that you shall hardly be aware you have a master."

I was charmed with these words, which instantaneously inspired me with so much zeal and attachment for him, that I felt ready to sacrifice myself in his service : which

## ESTEVANILLE GONZALEZ.

proves, I think, it is the fault of masters, when servants do not love them. I felt myself so affected, (anticipating the kindness he promised to shew me,) that I talked confusedly, so as to make it apparent, that, if I failed in eloquence, I had at least feeling. He tapped me gently on the shoulder, and said, smiling, " Go, my friend, go to bed; I have every reason to think we shall suit each other very well. Your predecessor had but fifteen pistoles wages; I will give you twenty, to testify with how much satisfaction I take you into my service." I left the Dean when I had put him to bed; and then retired into my own little room adjoining, in which stood his wardrobe, and where was also a small bed resembling that at my boarding-house: this was my dormitory. I did not sleep much this night; and, to shew that laziness was not one of my vices, I rose as soon as it was light: so that when my master got up at his usual time in the morning, and rang for me, I came directly, neatly dressed, and ready to receive his orders. " According to what I see,"

said he, “you are not given to oversleep yourself: I like you the better. Hear me, Gonzalez,” (putting a paper into my hands;) “to shew you that I shall entrust you with my private affairs, here is a receipt for two hundred crowns, which I shall confide to your care: take that presently from me to Señor Don Juan de Barros, Receiver-General of our Chapter: he will give you the money.” I went out with the receipt, and executed my commission so quickly, that the Dean was very well pleased with me. He shewed his satisfaction, and I became every day more approved.

I had already been more than a month with him, when one evening, at supper, he fell into a profound reverie: instead of conversing, and laughing, as was customary with him, amongst his three servants, he was silent all the time he sat at table. We took the liberty, two or three times, of speaking to him; he only answered us with sighs: at last we were convinced he was preyed upon by some secret sorrow, as he

appeared so perfectly overwhelmed with affliction. He ate hardly any thing this evening; and, ordering me not to come to undress him, he went up into his bed-chamber, and locked the door. "This without doubt," said I to the little cook, "is one of those unhappy times of which you have spoken." "Yes," he replied, "you see our master is sometimes unlike himself; but these are only passing clouds: to-morrow we shall see him as we are accustomed."

Persuaded that it would be so, we three remained in the parlour, where we supped very cheerfully: after which we retired to our beds. I had already got into mine, and was closing my eyes to sleep, when I thought I heard the voice of my master. I listened with the utmost attention, and could no longer be in doubt. He was pacing his room with hasty strides, conversing to himself on the uneasiness under which he laboured: in vain I listened to hear more distinctly; I could only catch some words, by which I judged that the delicacy of his

conscience troubled him, and kept him from sleeping. I heard, also, the noise of several stripes of discipline which this devotee inflicted on himself, very probably without any cause: and all the night long he never ceased to talk, to scourge himself, and to be restless and unhappy.

As soon as day broke, he went out without saying a word; and after remaining three hours in the city, he returned with a cheerful air; which surprised me, as I expected to see him still more melancholy. He ordered me to follow him into his room; where, shutting the door, he said, "Come hither, Gonzalez; it is right you should partake of my joy: I will make you the confidant of my secrets. Know that I have gained a glorious and important victory." "You choose then, Sir," I replied, with as cheerful an air as his, "that I should rejoice with you without knowing on what point you have gained your victory?" "I have vanquished," said he, "I have overthrown, the demon of avarice; I had amassed

three hundred crowns ; I hoarded it carefully in my chest ; my heart grew attached to it :—but my heavenly Father has had pity on his servant ; he has lent me his assistance : I have been and thrown all my crowns into the poor's box, at the Hospital ; and hence I am delivered of a weighty burden, which overwhelmed me.”

You may readily imagine that I was not a little astonished at this discourse, which made me take the Licentiate for a madman. He perceived my thoughts ; and, to induce me to think more favourably of the soundness of his understanding, he pursued his subject. “ You must know, my friend, I am naturally avaricious ; I have a passion for money ; and, notwithstanding all the severity of my philosophy, I have hitherto ineffectually tried to destroy it. I am now happy, when I possess nothing more than what is necessary for housekeeping and the expense of my servants : on the contrary, as soon as I find a superfluity, I forget that it belongs to the poor ; I shut it up ; I hide it ;

I make it my idol. My avarice rekindles ; I heap piece upon piece : at last, I give way to my passion. Nevertheless, though avarice sometimes conquers me, it does not long enjoy the triumph over me : Charity soon returns to disturb its triumph, and to dispute the prey it has seized. It is when I feel in my heart such opposite contentions, that I am plunged into the most frightful melancholy ; and the issue of it would always be favourable to vice, if Heaven did not give me grace to support virtue : but, thanks to the Divine Goodness ! I have hitherto always vanquished my enemy."

When the over-scrupulous Dean, charmed with the victory he had gained, had spoken to me in this manner, he broke out into fresh transports of joy, at having so happily disengaged himself of his three hundred crowns. Afterwards he presented himself before his crucifix, to thank God for having given him strength to perform so great an action. This holy man (for he really was so) remained more than a quarter of an hour in

prayer. He charmed me so much by his edifying manner, that I could not be tired of admiring him. Having risen, he assumed a smiling countenance, and addressed me in these words :—“ Gonzalez, you see me very happy; but I am even more so than I appear. If you could imagine all the internal satisfaction that I feel at being delivered from the dominion of avarice, I am persuaded, from this moment, you would follow my example; and I exhort you, my son, if you have money that you do not want—I advise you as a friend—to carry it to the Hospital, to prevent the taste you would insensibly acquire for riches.”

I smiled at this advice, which was so piously given: but I was not induced to dispossess myself of my pistoles; although a good casuist might rather have cavilled at the mode of their coming into my possession. “Sir,” replied I to the Dean, “if I had an income which furnished me with more than necessaries, I would endeavour to imitate you; although you appear to me an

inimitable man. But consider, if you please, I am a poor young man without any patrimony: I have not more than a score of pistoles, or thereabouts, remaining of what I gained in my last service. Could I, without imprudence, dispossess myself of them? How do I know what may happen to me? If I were to have the misfortune to lose *you*, and should remain a long time out of place, should I not have reason to reproach myself with being improperly charitable." "What you say," said the Dean, "is very just, if future cares ought to embarrass us: but we ought not to feel uneasiness for what is to come; nor let the fear of wanting money serve us as a pretext for defrauding the poor of our superfluities."

My rigid master continued to talk in this fine style to me, but in vain. I heard it merely as a song; and things remained as they had been. Two months after this adventure, which he forbade my revealing to the other servants, he sent me again to the Receiver of the Chapter for another sum of two hundred

crowns, which I brought to him. He put them into his chest, and kept them for three weeks, without seeming to think of them. Nevertheless, it did not prevent his becoming absorbed; and by degrees my devotee resumed his melancholy. As soon as I perceived it, I said to him, "Señor Licenciate, since I had the honour of being your confidant, I have thought it my duty to watch over you, to afford you consolation whenever I had reason to believe you stood in need of it. I know but too well what is now passing in your heart: Avarice and Charity are now fighting there; and the event of the combat is uncertain. Permit a faithful servant, who is anxious for the happiness of your life, to serve as a clue, to extricate you from the labyrinth in which you are entangled."

"Yes, my dear Estevanille," said the Dean, mournfully, "I combat night and day against a powerful enemy, who seems to acquire strength in proportion as mine diminishes: help me, if you are able to

overcome him." "Most willingly, Sir," I replied, "and we will begin the combat directly, if you please." "Ha! how will you set about it?" said the Licenciate. "Give me, directly, this formidable property, which will certainly bring you to everlasting misery. I fly to deliver you, by throwing it into the great box for the poor, which is at the entrance of St. Bernard's monastery."

My master did not immediately approve of this proposal ; but at last the meditations of the devotee prevailed, by degrees, over the influence of avarice. "I consent, my friend," said he : "you shall undertake this commission. At the same time you will spare me some uneasiness, which I should suffer in carrying the money myself." At these words he took a bag out of his strong box, and putting it into my hands, "Here," said he, "are the victims that would destroy me! Go my child, run, fly! and return directly, to announce to me that the sacrifice is made."

I left my master in his room; who heaved a few sighs, which he could not resist, at my departure, or rather at the loss of his victims; and I took the road to the Convent of St. Bernard, with the intention of faithfully discharging the errand upon which I was going. I set out with the best intentions; and should undoubtedly have performed my duty like an upright man, if the Demon of Avarice had not come to tempt me. Enraged, no doubt, at having been conquered by the master, he was determined to revenge himself upon his valet: he stopped me quite short, just as I was ready to enter the church; and whispering in my ear, "Estevanille," said he, "where are you going? Senseless blockhead as you are! you are going to throw water into the river. Do you imagine the Hospital wants money? You deceive yourself, Gonzalez: it is supported by the charity of so many rich people, that never do you see the seething-pot of the poor overthrown. Its revenues increase every day, by large legacies: besides that, their wealth is not plundered, like the Grand

Signior's, by roguish stewards: they have honest men for managers and distributors, who take a pleasure in managing the charity for the love of God, and acting disinterestedly in their administration: Do not, therefore, throw into the chest the money which good fortune hath thrown into your lap; keep it rather for yourself; perhaps you may soon feel the want of it: besides, as the Dean appropriates it to the poor, a part of it belongs to you: that will at least, in some sort, diminish your fault.

The Devil, in suggesting these evil reflections to me, which he had the art to make appear good, corrupted my integrity. Instead, therefore, of going into the church, I walked into the Exchange; where, for a trifle, I got my crowns converted into dubbloons, which I could easily hide in my pocket. I returned directly to the house, where the Licentiate impatiently waited my return. "Rejoice, sir!" said I, assuming an air of gaiety; "the affair is done; the fish are in the net of the Hospital; your

conscience may regain all its tranquillity." "I am delighted," said he, "that it is finished; and I thank you. On your side, my child, you have cause to be satisfied, because you have had a share in the good work." "I feel great joy," said I; "and if you have the misfortune to find yourself again labouring under the uneasiness from which I have delivered you, I hope you will again employ your humble agent to extricate you." The Dean assured me he had no other intention: however, some months after, finding his superfluous money increase fast, and feeling his tormenting scruples returning, he had recourse to another expedient to deliver himself. He bought several learned books on morality and theology, believing by this purchase that he should quiet his mind: but, after a profound meditation at the foot of his crucifix, he called me. I ran, on hearing his voice; and remarking he seemed more troubled, more agitated, than ever,—"What would you say, my dear master!" said I; "are you going again to allow me a share in some

good action?" "Ah, Gonzalez!" he replied, heaving a most bitter sigh; "how subtle the Devil is! I thought I had deceived him; and it is he who has dug a pit, into which I am fallen. I thought, in buying these books, that Charity could not complain. What an illusion! These works, however excellent, are useless to me: I never read; I employ almost all my time in prayer. Wherefore, then, unhappy as I am, have I made such a purchase? How can I recompense the poor for the money these books have cost me? They are but useless ornaments in my apartment?"

The too charitable Dean felt so mortified in having been guilty of an expense which now appeared to him culpable, that he was inconsolable. Confidants, however, sometimes give good advice. "Sir," said I, "your fault does not appear to me to be irreparable. Would it not be your best plan to return these books to the person of whom you bought them; he will take them again, allowing him a fair profit; and I will go directly to

the Hospital with the money you receive for them." "I approve your advice," exclaimed the Licentiate in rapture; "it is Heaven, Gonzalez, who has inspired you; and I will immediately adopt your plan.

He ordered me, without loss of time, to go immediately and call two porters; which I did, with an alacrity for which I need not tell the cause. What amused me most was, the Dean would go with us to the bookseller; who happened to be the identical old, one-eyed fellow that had entrapped me into boarding with Dr. Canizarez. Although tradespeople are not very well pleased with having the goods returned which they have sold, he took these again very obligingly, and returned to the good Dean a hundred and fifty crowns of the two hundred he had received from him; contenting himself with the rest; not so much as a recompence for retaking the books, as for interest of the days they had been out of his shop.

I immediately laid my hand upon the specie returned ; and put it into a bag, which the bookseller gratuitously furnished. When we were in the street, I said to my master, if he would return home, I would rejoin him in a short time. He replied, he would accompany me. "How, Sir!" said I : "Can you distrust your servant? "Heaven forbid!" said he. "No, my child, I am sure of your fidelity : I only wished to go with you, to be a witness of the victory over myself ; but, since you think I suspect your good faith, you shall go, as you have wished, alone. Acquit yourself, without any witness, of a commission so pleasing in the sight of God." In saying these words, he took the way to his own house ; and I went to the banker's, to convert my crowns into double pistoles.

My purse, as you will perceive, began to fill out ; and, in the hope that I should have other opportunities of still farther swelling it, I became one of the happiest lads in Spain. But a melancholy event destroyed

my expectations. The Dean, a few days after the affair of the books, fell sick. He called in the most famous physicians of Salamanca: they gave him medicines—and he died. Scarcely were his eyes closed, when the relations he had in the city came with the greatest eagerness, not doubting but the deceased had died very rich: but they were strangely surprised to find only a few crowns, which he kept for housekeeping.

When I found how much they were disappointed, I told them they need not be astonished; for the Licentiate Salablanca, convinced that his superfluous wealth belonged of right to the poor, carried himself the surplus to the chests of the Hospitals. The relations, little satisfied with their inheritance, divided amongst themselves the effects; and, as if they had guessed I was paid by my own hands, they cut me off with less than half my wages. This was a revenge, on their part, for the share I had taken in the good works of my master.

As soon as I found myself out of place, I went to visit Vanegas. With him I found an Italian ecclesiastic, who did the duty of the chapel royal at Salamanca. As soon as I appeared, the Lay-clerk said to me, " My poor Gonzalez ! my grief is renewed at the sight of you : how sorry I am that your happiness has been of such short duration.—I had placed this young man," said he, addressing himself to the Royal Chaplain, " with the Licentiate Salablanca, who is lately dead. It was a very good situation for him ; but it is an advantage he has not long enjoyed. He is very deserving ; an active, faithful servant ; of good connexions ; and has some knowledge of polite literature."

Whilst Vanegas was speaking in this way, the Italian eyed me minutely ; and whether he really did want a servant, or some other reason weighed with him, he said to Vanegas, " I want a servant, and will take this young man into my house : the good character you give him, and his prepossessing coun-

tenance, make me wish to have him. He may assure himself, that, for your sake, I shall be very kind to him, and will take a pleasure in improving his understanding, and cultivating the seeds of literature he has already received. I will give him the same wages he had with the Dean ; and I do not think he will be a loser in the change of situation. Consult together upon this ; and when you have determined—you know where I live—you will come to me.” In saying these words, which he uttered in the sweetest tone of voice, he embraced Vanegas, and went away.

“ Well,” said the Lay-clerk to me, as soon as we were alone, “ how do you feel affected by this proposal? What think you of the offer made you?” “ This ecclesiastic,” I replied, “ appears to be a worthy man : do you think I should act wrong in accepting the place he has offered me?” “ No,” said he, “ my friend : I can only say that I have but a few days knowledge of this priest. I know that he is an old bachelor

of Calabria ; that he is Chaplain Royal of this city ; and that he has the reputation of very easy circumstances. That is all I know of him. Although he is an Italian, and has an equivocal sort of countenance, he may, notwithstanding, be a very honest man. But I think you ought, without hesitation, to resolve to be his servant. What hazard do you run ? If you are not satisfied with him, you can leave him. Footmen are not slaves. If masters have the power of turning them away when they please, they can, on THEIR side, leave their master." " You reason to perfection," said I to the Señor Vanegas ; " and I am ready to devote myself to the service of the Royal Chaplain : I have a presentiment that he will make me amends for the loss of my late master."

On the following day, the Lay-clerk conducted me to the Bachelor, who received me with such an air of kindness, that quite charmed me. He assured me again that he would take particular pains in teaching me the BELLES LETTRES. Vanegas, who

had a great regard for me, was very much pleased with the kind assurances given me by the Chaplain. He thanked him, as if the obligation was conferred on himself; and went away persuaded I should be as well situated with **HIM** as with the Dean. I thought the same; or rather I thought my new master more worthy of attachment than the other. "If the Dean," said I, "was a virtuous priest, THIS does not appear less so. I did not distrust his pale and mortified appearance; besides, I believed he had much more sense and learning." The Calabrian, in fact, had infinitely the advantage: he passed the greatest part of the day, and sometimes part of the night, in his library, which contained a great variety of books. He was a Monk (but I did not hear of what order), and a teacher of Philosophy: he was one of the most learned of men.

The establishment of his servants was the same as that of the Dean; and consisted only of an old housekeeper, a cook, and myself. He did not live at much ex-

pense, though he had the credit of being rich. He did not throw his money into the chests of the Hospital: but contented himself, on coming out of a church, with throwing a handful of *maravedis* amongst the poor who were assembled round the door. One thing, however, I did not like: he gave his alms with too much ostentation, as if he wished no one to be ignorant of his good works. At such times, one might take him for a saint; he walked with so much gravity; his eyes fixed on the ground; and his face preaching mortification.

He did not fail, as he had promised, to shew great attachment to me. As soon as he had examined me in the Belles Lettres, and found me acquainted with the first elements, he evinced as much joy as if he had been my father; and said to me, with an affectionate air, that he regarded me as his scholar. “Yes, my child,” said he, with an animated tone, “you are an apt scholar: I will take charge of you, and will push you forward. It would be like committing

murder, to suffer a man, born to make a figure in the world by his learning, to languish in service."

He accompanied these fine promises with some embraces, to shew me he spoke from the fulness of his heart. I was so penetrated with his excessive kindness, that I could not resist going to Vanegas, and making him a partner in my joy: but instead of approving the faithful relation of all the proofs of friendship shewn me by my new master, he became gloomy and absorbed. "How is this!" said I: "you seem as if you were afflicted with the account I have given you? Do you repent having been the instrument of my happiness? What can be the cause of such a change?" "I have still the same attachment to you," said the Lay-clerk; and you cannot be happier than I wish you." "Why, then," said I, "do you remain silent, and appear chagrined, when you hear of the attachment the Bachelor has to me: it seems to give you uneasiness."

My friend Vanegas would not disclose his thoughts to me; and I was far from guessing them. However, I pressed him so much to explain himself, and to conceal nothing from me, that at last he spoke as follows: "I do not know if I ought to rejoice at having procured you a situation with which you are so much satisfied. Alas! I fear I have innocently exposed your youth to the attentions of a vicious man. All these demonstrations of friendship of the Calabrian appear to me extravagant, and consequently I suspect them. However," said he, stopping himself, "it may be that I am improperly alarmed; and my fears unjust, respecting the Bachelor's intentions. Besides, although you are young, you have judgment enough, and are sufficiently quick, to discover the hypocrite beneath his mask, if he be one."

The Lay-clerk had said quite enough to raise my doubts; and my mind reverting to certain conversations which I had heard in the boarding-house of Canizarez,

I returned to my Italian with strong prejudices against him, and more disposed to view his good actions in the worst light, than to view his bad ones with candour. I held myself towards him always on my guard ; and, prepossessed as I was against him, he had not a favourable judge in me, as I interpreted every thing to his disadvantage. The obliging language he used to me only created my distrust ; and the books he gave me, although they might be of the greatest purity and disinterestedness, appeared to me culpable. One day, when I was with him in his library, he took up a Virgil ; which opening, and giving to me, he said : “ Estevanille, try if you can translate this Eclogue into Spanish.” By chance, or otherwise, this Eclogue was the very one which began with the verse,

Formosum pastor Corydon ardebat Alexin.

I had heard it explained at College : I even knew it by heart. I had not much difficulty in translating it into Castilian. But whilst I was making the version, with as much

elegance as I could, the Calabrian, to shew how much he was pleased with me, gave me gentle taps on the shoulder, softly pulled my ears, and pinched my cheeks. This appeared to me growing serious ; and believing myself in danger, where I ought not to be, I fled, and left this old Corydon in his library.

I had many times heard of the city of Madrid, as one of the wonders of the world ; which made me wish much to go there, and see if what was said of it was true. I found myself in circumstances to take this journey very comfortably, and to appear in this famous city under a more honourable character than that of a footman. I flattered myself that a young man who could write a good hand, and did not want understanding, would infallibly make his fortune at court ; either by some nobleman of consequence taking a fancy to him, or by slipping in among the clerks of the Secretaries of State. In short, puffed up with the good opinion I had of my own

merit, I bought a mule, to travel in genteel style to Madrid ; and set out one morning before sunrise.

I took the road to Peneranda ; where I arrived, happily, at the end of the first day : but it was not the same at the end of the next. At the entrance of Old Castille, I saw two roads, which puzzled me ; and not having any person to direct me, I was obliged to trust to chance. One road led to the city of Avila, the other to Segovia ; and I took the last, as a punishment for my sins ; as you shall hear. I was obliged to go between two mountains, by a road sufficiently horrible to terrify a traveller who had no money. If I had known the country, I might, by a circuitous route, have avoided this dangerous passage ; which could only be attempted by those ignorant of the risk they ran. Besides its being on the edge of precipices, mountains are seen piled on mountains, and at their feet frightful caverns, which could not be observed without trembling.

I expected every moment to see issue out of these frightful caverns, men armed with swords, or poignards, or carbines ; and these phantoms of my affrighted imagination made me tremble every joint. I dreaded losing, in this formidable place, the riches of which I had wronged the poor, as well as my own life : and, struck with fear so well-merited, I implored the assistance of Heaven, without reflecting that I much more deserved to be abandoned than succoured.

I was soon convinced of this. Two men, as if vomited out of a cavern, suddenly darted before my eyes, and froze all the blood in my veins with their frightful aspect, as well as with the large cutlasses they held in their hands. To add to their horrible forms still more terror, fear made me fancy them of an enormous size ; and their half-naked limbs seemed to favour the deception.

These two new children of the earth came before me, to prevent my proceeding ; and,

presenting their hats in the face of my mule, asked alms in a manner which shewed they would take no refusal. The supplicating manner they assumed did not diminish, in the least, their terrific look. I threw them some pieces of small money, that I had in my pocket, and with which I had been advised to provide myself at Peneranda, to prevent being obliged to shew gold on the road, which might be dangerous. But these two beggars, far from being satisfied with such a trifle, seized the bridle of my mule, and said I should not get off in that easy manner. "My young lad," said one of the two, dragging me out of the stirrups in spite of myself, and placing me forcibly on the ground, "we shall see if your purse is well filled." They took the trouble to search me everywhere, and robbed me of more than a hundred pistoles. Observing I was more dead than alive, they protested, by way of comforting me, they would do me no more harm ; which helped, a little, to dissipate my fear.

Hardly was this work finished, when, out of the cavern from which the two rogues came who had robbed me, there issued at least sixty men and women ; some on foot, some on mules, some on asses ; and all these honest people together composed a most formidable troop of Bohemians. The men wore slashed collars ; and their clothes were so ragged, as not to half cover their nakedness. The women were, some of them, well enough clothed, and fantastically adorned with medallions, necklaces, and bracelets ; and the others only in a shift with a high girdle, and the neck and shoulders bare, with an impudence of countenance very common amongst persons of that class. The two Bohemians, who had so thoroughly emptied my pockets, ordered me, under pain of forfeiting my life, to go with them, and join their comrades, who marched two and two. We came out of the mountains about three or four hundred paces from thence ; and entered upon a plain, which carried us to a thick wood, in the middle of which was a fountain of excellent water.

We made a halt in this place ; which I should have liked very well, had I been in better company. These gentry began by spreading on the grass their meat and bread, of which they had an abundant stock ; as well as wine, which they carried in gourd bottles, like the pilgrims of St. James. They made me eat and drink with them, and allowed me no choice ; for the moment I shewed the least repugnance to do what they ordered me, they laid their hands upon their sabres, and by that means rendered me as supple as a glove. I carried my docility so far, as to suffer them to take off my clothes, which were very fine cloth, quite new, to clothe me in the dress of a Bohemian. They had always spare clothes amongst their baggage, which they constrained any young man to wear, who had the misfortune to fall into their hands.

The men and women, after a repast of three or four hours, began to dance in a more licentious than graceful manner. They were quite in the humour to divert themselves, and they proposed passing the

night in the wood ; when two other companions, who were on the scout, came to disturb their merriment, by announcing that a troop of the Holy Brotherhood were within thirty paces of them. Not even the least courageous of the body were in the slightest degree alarmed at the news ; for they thought themselves much superior to their enemies, and ranged themselves in order to receive them. It is very true, a single troop of the Society would have been too weak to beat so many Bohemians, who, for the greater part, were stout courageous fellows : but at the moment that these, despising the small number of the Guards, marched boldly up to attack them, a second troop of the Holy Brotherhood appeared on the opposite side, and came thundering upon the robbers, placing them between two fires ; when the Bohemians, no longer daring to face the enemy, only thought of escaping by flight.

I fled along with them, not knowing what I did ; as if I had not the greatest reason to

rejoice I was no longer in their power. The guards pursued us so rapidly, that they took almost every one prisoners. They bound us with cords which they brought with them for that purpose; and having divided us into two bodies, they conducted one to Segovia, and the other to Avila. It is proper to inform the reader, that the *Corregidores* of these two cities, having information that a numerous body of Bohemians robbed with impunity in the country, and even assassinated travellers, had each of them sent dispatches to a Brigade of Guards of the Holy Society, who had so well taken their measures, that each came to the wood at the same time.

I was in the band of the unhappy wretches who were taken to Avila; whither we were no sooner brought than we were shut up in frightful dungeons, and were told we should have instant justice. The Corregidor, always quick in rendering justice, came the following day into our prison, to examine us; and, as my happy stars would have it, they

began with me. They were first struck with my youth : "Unhappy wretch!" said they, "you have placed your happiness in a bad trade." "My lord," I coldly answered, "habit does not make a Monk. Although I am in the dress of the Bohemians, I can assure you I do not belong to their gang." "Go on!" said the Corregidor, without condescending to hear what I had to say in my defence; and passed me, to examine the other prisoners, who were in the same dungeon with me. He asked them if they belonged to the Bohemians who had been taken in the wood by the Guards of the Holy Brotherhood? They replied, "Yes;" supposing, in fact, that it would avail them nothing to pretend the contrary. On this answer, the Judge ceased to interrogate them; and merely ordered their names and mine to be taken down, by a Secretary who accompanied him. On going out, he informed us, that he should not leave us to languish long in our fetters; for in two hours; or less, we should know our fate.

Perceiving that the minister of justice was about to pronounce my fate, I thus addressed him, with a loud voice: "My lord! take care, I entreat you, what you are doing. Confound not innocence with guilt. Far from belonging to these roguish Bohemians, I declare to you, that they have robbed me of my money, my clothes, and my mule; and they have re-clothed me, spite of myself, in the wretched garments I have on." The Corregidor paid so little attention to this apostrophe, that, an hour after, the Secretary re-entered our dungeon, and, with a cheerful countenance, said, "Which is the Señor Estevanille Gonzalez?" "Here I am!" I cried; imagining he came to liberate me: "What have you to say to me?" "Good news!" he replied; "and for which I shall demand nothing, but the expenses of the action, which will soon be peremptorily finished. You are condemned," said this ill-timed jester, "to mount the scaffold, and give your benediction to the people with your heels."

This raillery of the Secretary, and the ridiculous language he made use of to announce to me I was to be hung, made me think, at first, that he was not serious. But when he afterwards read to us the sentence which condemned all the Bohemians as well as myself to death, and no longer doubting the extent of my misfortune, I gave full vent to my grief by a torrent of tears, and the dungeon re-echoed with my cries and lamentations. Addressing myself to the Bohemians, "Why," said I to them, "vile wretches as you are! will you not save a man you know to be innocent? You can easily do so, by avowing to the Corregidor that I have no connexion with your gang. What can you gain, by suffering me to perish with you?" In thus reproaching the miscreants, I imagined I should soften them, and, obliging them to bear witness to my innocence, get my discharge: but, instead of doing me this justice, they only laughed at my fear, and made a jest of my sufferings.

When I had finished my address, the Secretary, not seeming to notice it, took me by the hand, and led me into a hall, where we found a Monk of the order of St. Francis, whose appearance bespoke his errand. "Here, father," said he to the Monk, "begin with this young man; confess him, and prepare him for another world." I threw myself at the feet of the Monk, and implored his protection with a loud voice, giving him a faithful account of what passed between the Bohemians and myself. As soon as the Secretary had heard my discourse, he went out without saying a word, and left me in the hall with the confessor and the hangman.

"My friend," replied the Monk, "if the adventure you relate to me be true, I judge, from it, that your sins have drawn down upon you the anger of Heaven: for divine vengeance often makes use of human means to punish sinners. Therefore, so far from repining at the sentence that condemns you to death, and which appears to you

nnjust, you should regard it as a chastise-  
ment that you have but too well deserved.  
Employ, then, properly, the short moments  
that you have to live in this world: confess  
your sins, and ask pardon of God."

Notwithstanding the Franciscan's exhortations, I could not resolve on leaping into the grave, without great difficulty; but the holy man persevered in his efforts to prepare me for my fate. He exhorted me in a most pathetic and consolatory manner, and mingled tears with those which I shed for my untimely end: his were caused by a solicitude for my eternal salvation. He at last took such great pains with me, that I was touched, and felt all at once a sincere repentance for my faults arise in my soul: I groaned, I sighed, I felt overwhelmed with grief and shame when I thought of the robberies I had committed at Murcia and Salamanca. Human nature submitted, by degrees, to the deeply humiliated situation in which I found myself. I acknowledged that I was deservedly punished, and

that I merited the ignominious death which awaited me.

I had become completely resigned to my fate, and fully considered myself as a public spectacle to justice, when the Corregidor entered the hall, with the Secretary, and one of the Bohemian prisoners. "Father," said he to the Monk, "release that young man whom you are preparing for death: his fear has wrought his acquittal. All these honest men, with whom he was taken, have deposed that he is not one of their fraternity, although he wears their habit. It is not just that he should lose his life for being involuntarily found with them. But, as the inhabitants of Avila are very impatient to see one executed to-day, here is a robber to satisfy their revenge."

On saying this, the Corregidor left the room, and ordered me to follow him. I obeyed, and willingly gave up my place to the Bohemian, who was one of the two rogues that had robbed me of my double pistoles.

He threw himself upon his knees before the Monk, who confessed him, and conducted him to punishment.

The Corregidor, having conducted me into another room, and perceiving that the sudden transition from fear to joy had nearly overpowered my senses, gave me some wine. As soon as I appeared a little recovered from my agitation, he told me I was free; and at the same time, by his order, the gates of the prison were opened to me; whence I departed, without money, without my clothes, and without my mule; which were transferred from the hands of the Bohemians to those of Justice.

My appearance in the streets, in the habiliments which had been forced on me, drew after me the revilings of the populace, to which I paid little attention: I only felt the happiness of being delivered from the Bohemians and the Corregidor. To return my most humble thanks to Almighty God, I went into a church, and approached a

corner; where devoutly kneeling, I was so much impressed with a sense of the danger I had escaped, that I prayed most earnestly, and, frequently striking my breast, vowed sincerely to Heaven to amend my life.

I believed myself unseen by any eye but that of my heavenly Father: but an old citizen of Avila, who was counting his rosary a few paces off, observed me. He was so much pleased with the fervent piety of my manner, that he wished to speak to me. For this purpose he waited at the church-door, and joined me when I came out. "Young man," said he, "you appear a stranger in this city; and, if I may judge by appearances, you are not in a happy situation."

At these words, which made me sigh, I looked at the old man with the deepest sorrow, and began to weep, without being able to articulate a word. He was affected at seeing me so much overwhelmed with grief; and wishing to know the cause, "My

child," said he, " your sorrow seems excessive ; tell me the cause of it. Do not fear to open your heart to me : I love those who deserve it. I consider you as a good young man, and feel interested for you."

Feeling myself restored to speech by this kind language, which seemed to participate in and assuage my sorrow : " Señor," said I, " since, without knowing me, you are kind enough to interest yourself in my affairs, I owe you, as an acknowledgment, a faithful relation of what has befallen me. When you hear of my misfortunes, you will find that I am not afflicted without cause. In our passage through this vale of tears, each one has his sorrows ; but mine I feel to be very bitter : yet Heaven, in pity, sends a merciful Samaritan, to pour in oil and wine, and to heal my wounds. Would that all were like you ! then would this world be a scene of charity and benevolence ; not of warfare and contention." I then related my history to him, in so broken-hearted and dejected a style, that he was melted with pity : and when I

had finished, he embraced me, with tears in his eyes, and said he was sensibly affected with the trial to which Heaven had exposed me. "Remember, my child," said this good old man, "we are purified in the furnace of adversity: whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." When he had uttered these consoling words, and perceiving I had no other asylum than the Hospital, this charitable citizen took me to his house, and kept me there eight days; during which time he clothed me. Afterwards, as my intention was still to go to Madrid, he sent me there in company with some muleteers; making me a present of twenty pistoles, with a letter of recommendation to a goldsmith, a friend of his, of the name of Lezcano. This unexpected assistance from the kind-hearted old man, for which I did not omit to return my grateful thanks to Heaven, gave me much consolation; and the sight of the most magnificent city of Madrid helped to make me forget the adventure of the Bohemians.

As soon as I arrived at Madrid, my first business was to carry my letter to the goldsmith; who, having read it with attention, was extremely civil, and promised to find a situation for me: but he neither offered me the use of his house, nor invited me to his table. Happily, however, his excellent friend at Avila had enabled me to live for some time at an inn; and I hoped he would not be long in performing his promise. I passed near a month in surveying this beautiful city and its environs, and in visiting all the curiosities worth seeing therein. I also took pleasure in frequenting the palace of our Kings, and in attentively gazing upon the great number of noblemen who were commonly assembled there. I was not inattentive, however, to the object of my journey hither; and did not fail to visit Lezcano often, to make him remember me. He always gave me a very kind reception, and assured me that he had not forgot me. "Have a little patience," he would say to me, "and I will place you in some house where you will be like a fish

in water." However, day rolled on after day, and my money began to run short: but, instead of making myself uneasy, I incessantly repeated the words of the Licentiate Salablanca: "We should never anticipate care." I felt too much confidence in Providence, to fear what was to come; and soon found I was not abandoned.

The next time I went to the goldsmith, he said to me, "You could not have come more opportunely; I was going to look for you, to tell you, that I have at last found you a situation, such as I promised. Tomorrow, you will have for your master, Don Henry de Bolagnos, a very good man, middle aged, rich, and a Knight of the Order of St. James. He is somewhat of a misanthrope; which is not very extraordinary in an upright character, who values himself on his sincerity. With your sense and steady habits, you will suit him to perfection. He does not keep house; and has only one servant, to whom he gives a hundred crowns a year, and six reals a day for board: he is

moreover very generous. After some years of service, you will find he will provide very handsomely for you; and you will have every reason to be pleased with his liberality."

I returned thanks to Lezcano, for his kindness to me; and the next morning he took me to Don Henry's levee. The Knight, who was about forty, handsome, and well made, lived in a large house, and occupied a spacious chamber, very well furnished. When I entered, he looked earnestly at me; and at last said to my conductor, "The countenance of the young man you have brought to me, accords well with the eulogium you have passed upon him: but even if that were not the case, I should implicitly rely on your recommendation."

Don Henry of Bolagnos became, therefore, my fourth master. The Knight passed the morning reading in his closet, and went out about noon to dine in the city;

whence he returned about ten or eleven in the evening: so that I was a servant with very little work. To brush his clothes, and keep his room in order, was the whole of my employment; he required nothing more of me. I therefore employed the whole afternoon in walking about, learning the news, forming acquaintance, and diverting myself. My only solicitude was, to return to the house before my master; so that, finding me on his return always ready to wait upon him he was very well satisfied with his new footman; which he gave me to understand by his behaviour, and by condescending to enter into familiar conversation with me: and as I entertained him with stories he wished to hear, of what I had seen and done in the course of the day, he insensibly acquired a friendship for me.

I had observed among the books he commonly read, a very large one, which he always looked over before he went to bed: he usually wrote some lines in it, and scratched out others: he then shut it,

till the next day at the same hour. This made me very curious to know on what subject it treated ; and at last my curiosity became so irresistible, that I even ventured to ask Don Henry, what that large book was, which he read only in an evening, and seemed to wish to conceal in his library ? He smiled at my question ; and, far from being offended with the liberty I took, he replied, “ I forgive you for wishing to be informed of the contents of this mysterious book ; and I am very willing, my friend, to give you that satisfaction. “ It is a manuscript,” said he, “ of my own writing ; and I have been nearly ten years in composing it, for my own particular use.”

So saying, he opened the bookcase, and, taking out the volume, gave it to me to read. “ There, Gonzalez,” said he, “ you there see the list of my *friends*. This book, large as it is, only contains their names, and the duration of our friendship.” “ Oh, heavens !” exclaimed I, “ is it possible, Sir, that you have had the happiness to make

so many friends? But," added I, the next moment, "what is it I see! all these names seem to be scratched out, and blotted! what can it mean?" "I will explain it to you," said my master. Your astonishment is just: you must know, that I inserted all these names when I believed myself beloved by the people to whom they belong. I effaced them when I found they deceived me."

"Is it possible," Sir, said I, "that you can have been the dupe of so many men? you must have put them to severe trials." "Not at all," said he: "all these false friends unmasked themselves in the course of our acquaintance. In one I discovered, after he had overwhelmed me with the most affectionate expressions, that he was void of all sentiment, and a mere retailer of polite phrases. I found in another, that he sought my friendship with the view of gaining the use of my credit, to help him to obtain a place for which he was soliciting. A third rivalled me in the heart of my

mistress: and a fourth, unrestrained by the fear of offending me, has taken the greatest pains to seduce my sister. In short, I no longer acknowledge those for friends, whose names I have effaced; and whom I had placed in my register, on the faith of their perfidious expressions of friendship."

Having glanced over the leaves of the register, and observed that all the names were crossed out, with the exception of five or six in the two last pages, I said to my master, "Truly, Sir, I was at first astonished to see so many friends on your list; and now I am astonished you have so few." "It is very probable there will be less, in a few days," said he. "Those whose names I have not yet crossed out, very possibly owe *that* distinction merely to the shortness of our acquaintance." "What strange reflections you awaken in me, Sir," said I: "I am almost tempted to believe that there are none but false friends in the world." "There are *some* true ones," said he, "but they are very rare; and

numbers who boast of having *many*, have not a *single* one. I had put," said he, "in my register, all my relations, looking on them as my best friends. But, would you believe it possible? I have been obliged to efface them all, my father alone excepted: *he* remained faithful, in spite of all] the uneasiness I have given him."

Two or three days after this conversation, on my master's return from the city in the evening, he said to me: "Gonzalez, bring me the register of my friends: I have two erasures to make. I wish to efface an Auditor of the Council of Castile, and a Knight of Alcantara; but I will first consult with you about them. These two gentlemen were the day before yesterday in company, when the conversation turned upon calumniating me. The Auditor heard it, and said nothing, instead of taking my part; and the Knight joined with them. What do you think of these friends?" "I think, Sir," said I, "that the Auditor is a man to be scratched, and the Knight to be blackened;"

“ I am of your opinion,” said Don Henry : and, in striking them out of the list, I do not fear the imputation of being reckoned too delicate in the choice of my friends.”

“ I do not know yet,” said I, “ the people whose names are not yet struck out ; but I much fear *they* will, sooner or later : for in four or five hundred pages, one only remains who is not.” “ You are wrong,” said the Knight : “ you have not looked over minutely the leaves of the register. There are three names in the third page, which have not been struck out ; and probably never will. The first is that of an old Bachelor, whom I have known near thirty years. I was at school with him : and we have never any secrets between us : our interests are the same. I am master of his purse ; and on his side, he can dispose of all my wealth. In a word, we live in the bands of the strictest friendship, without the least apprehension that our strict intimacy will bring on dislike. The second name is that of a German officer,

who was my second in an affair of honour; and who has more than once exposed his life for me. And the third is that of an accomplished man, to whom I have long owed money, and who never asks me for it."

In looking over the names of these *true* friends, I thought I perceived another which was not effaced: my master made me observe, however, that there was an erasure; but the mark was not so strong as the others. "Sir," said I, "will you give me leave to ask why you have only half struck out this name?—there is some mystery in this I suppose: this man probably appears to you an equivocal friend; and from your doubts respecting his real sentiments, you neither dare to let him remain, nor yet scratch him out."

"No, no," said my master; "I know very well what to think of him. He is an old Galician Licentiate, who, from his early youth, has quitted his country (where he never would have become a prophet) to

seek his fortune at Madrid. I knew him at the time he could hardly live : we were then very good friends, and our happiest moments were those we passed together : but for some years he has used so much interest at Court to advance himself, that he is now in great opulence : he avoids all those who knew him before his prosperity ; and, according to all appearances, we shall see each other no more. Deplorable effects of the riches of this world ! A philosopher has good reason to say, that if we would keep our friends, we should every day pray to God not to permit them to become rich."

I had already foreseen that the names not yet effaced in the book would infallibly be so ; and this happened in less than a month after.—“ It is finished, then,” said Don Henry ; “ I will never again keep such a register : I do nothing but write and blot out : ‘Tis the work of the Danaides.” “ You are right, Sir,” replied I ; “ and I would advise you now to set about similar trial of your mistresses, to see if they prove

more faithful than your friends." "No, no, confound them!" said he, bursting into a violent fit of laughing, "I shall gain nothing by that. Hold, my child! if you knew women as well as I do, you would not make me such a proposition." "Good!" said I, laughing in my turn; "you suppose I am ignorant how little one can rely on the friendship of the fair sex. Oh, no! young as I am, I know them but too well. This knowledge, it is true, has cost me some pistoles; but experience is rarely gained for nothing."

My master was much surprised to hear me speak in this way. "How, then, Estevanille," interrupted he; "you seem a great proficient for your age! Pray tell me by what means you became so knowing?" I immediately related to him the history of Bernadina; and the recital diverted him excessively. He afterwards gave me a serious exhortation; and advised me to avoid, with the utmost care, all opportunities of forming tender attachments. "I have also sacrificed

to love," said he; " and I have even been worse used than you. But I am now so much upon my guard, that I can gaze on the most fascinating beauties with impunity ; which is proof to me that there is no necessity for becoming a slave to woman, if you do not chuse to be so."

Although the Knight was conscious that the men who professed friendship for him were not, in fact, attached to him, it did not prevent his living with them, as if they were so. He went and dined with them ; and sometimes gave them a supper at his own house. Amongst those who came most frequently to the house, there was a Knight called Don Joseph Quivillo, a man of merit, and a gentleman of the Duke of Ossuna. This Quivillo took pleasure in addressing his conversation to me, to oblige me to speak ; and I the more willingly answered him, as my master, far from taking it ill, encouraged me to enter into any conversation that diverted the company.

One evening, in particular, there escaped from me some sallies, which so much pleased the guests, that they complimented me very highly upon them. Every one praised me; but particularly Quivillo, who was delighted: he said I was a proper present to make to the Duke of Ossuna. "Yes," continued he, "that nobleman, who loves lively men, will be delighted to have, amongst his pages, a young man of the character of Estevanille."

Don Henry de Bolagnos then spoke; and said to Don Joseph: "Although I have a great regard for Gonzalez, I would consent that you take him from me, to make him page to the Duke of Ossuna." "That is enough," said Quivillo: "so, Estevanille, do you come to-morrow morning, and find me out at the levee of the Duke: I will take care of the rest." Although I was very glad, at heart, to become page to a grandee, I was politic enough to conceal my joy. I even affected so much indifference about it, that Don Henry asked me if I felt any repugnance in accepting the place proposed to

me?" I answered him, coolly, "No: but being so much attached to him, as I was, I could not think of leaving his service without feeling some uneasiness." All the guests were much pleased with my answer; which made me pass, in their opinion, for a sensible, kind-hearted young man. My master was deceived by it, as well as the rest. "Gonzalez," said he, "do you object, if I part with you, to enter into the service of the Duke of Ossuna? That nobleman will not fail to make an immense fortune." "I am not with him yet, Sir," said I, "and perhaps never may: it is possible that I may not have the good fortune to please him." This was, in fact, all I was apprehensive of. In spite of my cheerful and roguish air, I feared he would not think me sufficiently lively for one of his pages.

I went, however, the following day, with leave from my master, to the house of the Duke of Ossuna; where I met with Quivillo, who was waiting for me with all the impatience of a man bursting with agreeable

intelligence. "Gonzalez," said he, "you belong to this house. Upon the representation I have made of you to his Grace, he willingly receives you as one of his pages ; and has ordered that you have a new livery given you directly." At these words, Don Joseph conducted me to the Steward, who immediately sent for the tailor of the household, and ordered him to take my measure. He was so quick, that in two days I was able to present myself before the Duke ; who said, on seeing me, " My friend, do you know the business of a page ?" " Why not, my Lord ?" said I ; " I have satisfactorily acquitted myself in that of footman ; and it does not seem to me that the one is more difficult than the other." " You are right," said he, smiling ; and, turning to Quivillo, said, " I have a good opinion of this young man ; I believe he will not be the least sensible of my pages."

Three or four Sicilian noblemen, who arrived at this instant, prevented my having a longer conversation with my master.

I left him with them, and went to join my new comrades.

It was not long since that the Duke of Ossuna had returned from Flanders, where he had rendered great services to the State. He had been made one of the Lords of the Bedchamber, and one of the Four Commissioners of the Council of Portugal. But these two places were not sufficient to gratify his ambition: he was anxious to be appointed to the Government of Sicily, which was then on the point of becoming vacant; the time of the Duke of Thaurisano, then Governor of the island, being nearly expired.

The Duke of Ossuna aspired to this Viceroyalty for two reasons: first, to have an opportunity of executing some great enterprises against the Turks; and secondly, because the Viceroy of Sicily, on leaving his government, was usually appointed Viceroy of Naples. All his interest was exerted for this purpose. The Duke of

Uzede, his friend, and the favourite of Philip the Third, giving him the preference over all his opponents, appointed him to the government; and certainly a better choice could not have been made. The Duke was permitted, from the representations he made to Government, to keep always, in the ports of Sicily, a small fleet, well equipped, as a check upon the Turks; and for this purpose he was allowed to appropriate part of the revenues of the island. His salary was also doubled, to enable him to execute more effectually the designs he meditated.

As soon as he received his commission of Viceroy, he was solely occupied in making preparations for his departure; and when they were finished, he set off for Barcelona with Prince Philibert of Savoy, who was appointed General of the Maritime Forces of Spain, and was ordered to embark with him. But as these two distinguished characters could not travel together, and take all their establishment, without great inconvenience, (the inns being very few on

the road, and provisions but scarce,) they separated their suites into two divisions. The Prince, the Duke and Duchess, and Don Juan Telles Giron, their son, accompanied by only twenty-five servants, went to Barcelona; and all the rest of the establishment, with the baggage, were sent to Alicant, where they embarked, to join them.

I was amongst the number that did not go with the Duke: and we had scarcely got out of the Bay of Alicant, when the appearance of a horrible Barbary corsair threw me into a panic that was nearly fatal to me. Although he was the stronger, we made the best resistance we were able; but, after a quarter of an hour's fighting, he overpowered our ship, and loaded us all with chains. What a misfortune for men who were going in a triumphal manner to Barcelona, and who flattered themselves with making their fortune in Sicily! Adieu to all the splendid prospects we had imagined! Slavery, galling slavery, seemed to be our portion for the rest of our lives. The

Barbarians, insulting our affliction, were just on the point of making sail with us to their own country, when, lo ! off the port of Carthagena, they fell, in their turn, into the hands of Don Antonio de Terrecusa, who was proceeding from Cadiz to Barcelona, with six galleys, for the conveyance of the Prince and the Viceroy. Our ship was retaken, with all the cargo on board ; and the victorious Terrecusa conducted us to Barcelona, with two galliots taken from the pirates, filled with slaves and plunder.

We staid but a short time at Barcelona, and soon embarked for Genoa, where we no sooner arrived, than Prince Philibert quitted us to go to Turin, on a visit to the Duke of Savoy, his father, who was waiting there to see him. All the Genoese nobility, who had estates in Sicily, paid the utmost attention to the new Viceroy ; and he received great presents, not so much from the Senate, as from the merchants who traded with the Sicilians. Whilst we were at Genoa, the Count

de Lemos, who was the Viceroy of Naples, sent two of his gentlemen to the Duke of Ossuna, inviting him to come to Naples, to enjoy for some days the sight of that beautiful city, and to consult with him upon the mutual interests of the two kingdoms. My master, wishing extremely to go to Naples, accepted the invitation; and embarking again, we coasted along the Ecclesiastical States, till we arrived happily at Naples.

The Count de Lemos received the Duke and Duchess, his relations, in the most magnificent manner: he gave them apartments at the palace, and entertained them every day with some new fête. During our stay at Naples, there was a constant succession of feasts, balls, and concerts. The nobility and the inhabitants concurred with the Count in shewing every respect and attention to the Duke; though many still remembered the rigorous government of Don Pedro Giron, his grandfather, and formerly their Viceroy.

Entirely occupied as my master appeared to be, with the amusements prepared for him, he did not fail to have secret conferences with the Count de Lemos ; and in these interviews he gained such information as was not useless to him in the end. He was obliged at last to quit Naples. The Count ordered us to be escorted by the galleys of his kingdom, quite to Palermo ; understanding that those of Sicily were occupied as convoy to the Duke of Thaurisano, who was on his return to Spain ; having embarked without waiting for the arrival of his successor.

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BOOK II.

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THE Duke of Ossuna, being arrived at Palermo, wished to make his entry as quietly as possible, rather than with great pomp: and he remained three days in private. On the fourth, this nobleman entered, upon a very beautiful horse, by the gate next the sea; having on his right the President of the Great Court, and on his left Don Juan Telles, his son, accompanied by a great number of Knights very richly clothed, preceded by a great body of guards and the Magistrates, and followed by pages and attendants, whose superb liveries, which had been made at Genoa, dazzled the sight. After these came the Vice-queen, in a magnificent carriage, drawn by six horses; with her were the Princesses de Butera and de Castel-Buono: they were followed by a long train of carriages, filled

with the principal Nobles of the city, attended by gentlemen on horseback.

All the houses were decorated with tapestry, branches, and pictures; and the windows were adorned with rich carpets. In the streets the crowd was so prodigious, that it seemed as if all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Sicily were assembled, on purpose to do all possible honour to their new Viceroy. His Excellency had thrown among them, during the procession, to the amount of fifteen hundred crowns, in all sorts of coin; and he had for his money the pleasure of hearing resound, on all sides, "Long live his Catholic Majesty, and the Duke of Ossuna our governor!" Rejoicings succeeded acclamation. Nothing was thought of for three days but balls, feasts, and concerts. The Duke, however, soon gave them to understand, that he did not come there merely to preside over entertainments; but that he meditated some very important operations.

This kingdom, in fact, was much in want of an active Governor; for every species of licentiousness was indulged, by all classes, to an alarming degree: and every one lived according to his fancy, without fearing the laws of God or man. The magistrates, instead of punishing the guilty, neglected their duty, and suffered every species of crime to be committed with impunity. Nothing was heard of but robberies and assassinations. The new Viceroy determining to put a stop to these disorders: and to establish tranquillity and good government, he ordered proclamations to be stuck up in the streets, purporting that his Catholic Majesty, informed of the disorders which reigned in Sicily, in contempt of the laws, was determined to enforce his authority;—that he forbade, for this purpose, the sanctuary of our Lord being made an asylum for the wicked, who fled there after committing actions worthy of death;—that, in depriving them of the privilege of the Church, he commanded the Barons, and

other Nobility, who supported the malefactors, that they should cease to protect them; and, above all, that they should not conceal them in their houses, to prevent them from suffering the punishment due to their crimes:—in short, that his Catholic Majesty had given a particular power to Don Pedro Giron, third Duke of Ossuna, second Marquis of Pennafiel, seventh Count of Urenna, Gentleman of his Chamber, Knight of the Golden Fleece, Viceroy and Captain General of Sicily, to examine and revise all processes, civil as well as criminal, judged or not judged, under the two last governments.

I should not omit relating, that, by this edict, it was also declared that all those who came to discover to the Viceroy hidden crimes, which could not be proved, though the perpetrators were well known, should be assured of secrecy, and should be recompensed at the expense of the accused, or out of the King's coffers, if

if the accused had no property—and if, on the contrary, it was found that any one would not reveal any crime to which he was privy, he should be severely punished;—that they would doubly pay the informer who would bring to light any injustice committed by Judges, or the Governors of Cities. All kinds of arms, such as stilettos, pocket pistols, and knives with two edges, were forbidden to be carried;—and the Proclamation concluded with an exhortation to the guilty, to surrender themselves prisoners, and, by a sincere confession of their crimes, obtain pardon, or at least a great mitigation of their punishment. A time was fixed for their surrendering themselves; after which they were to be proceeded against with all the rigour of the law, and no endeavours spared to seize their persons.

This Proclamation made much confusion in Palermo, as well as in all the other cities of the kingdom where it was

sent. All men of integrity rejoiced: the criminals, and the Nobility who protected them, were the only ones who felt displeased. The Duke, well imagining that the guilty would not quit their retreats, or resign themselves to justice, gave such good orders to find them out, and drive them from their asylums, that in less than three months the prisons were full of them. Believing it his duty to be severe in the first year of his government, he resolved to begin with an act of rigour. He brought to trial, and beheaded, two Noblemen, who had given protection to assassins; hung seven robbers, and condemned twelve to the galleys; without speaking of many others punished with less severity. These executions, all in one day, at Palermo, where in three or four years there had not been so many in the whole, struck a terror into the other cities, and caused the Duke of Ossuna to be regarded as a Viceroy from Heaven, sent for the happiness of the Sicilians.

This nobleman, immediately after this act, which strongly shewed his firmness, went from Palermo to visit the other places in the kingdom, and judge the guilty who had been taken up by his order. He began with the little town of Mont Real: thence he went to Cephalonia; where, having found the castle unprovided with requisites for its defence, he put the Governor under arrest. The Governor of Catania shared the same fate. He chose them both out, for having neglected to demand ammunition of the preceding Viceroy. With the Governor of Patti he acted in a very different manner; increasing his pay, as a reward for the care he had taken to keep the citadel well provided with stores. His principal object was to keep such maritime fortresses as were most exposed in the best condition of defence; and to deprive the Turks of all temptation for making descents, he strongly fortified them all.

Messina was the place where he made the longest stay; and he there ordered for execution a great number of prisoners. The Sicilians, seeing him busily occupied in procuring gunpowder, shells, shot, and all the requisites for war, to fill the magazines and arsenals, began to perceive that he meditated some important expedition. They were the more convinced of it, when they found he had ordered new galiots and galleys to be constructed in an expensive manner. They imagined that he not only proposed rendering Sicily inaccessible to the Turks, but to seek out the Barbarians in their own ports, and make them tremble at the arms of Philip.

At last, the Duke terminated his progress by visiting Syracuse, where he cleared the prisons of the malefactors he found there: after which he returned to Palermo, and was received with more acclamations than on his first arrival; the people not knowing how to do him honour

ful they were for the equity of his proceedings. They had, in truth, great reason to be pleased with him; for in less than six months the wicked were punished, the tribunals of justice resumed their authority, and all was tranquil throughout the kingdom.

Having thus established order within, he soon turned all his attention against the Turks, who made frequent descents upon the island, often taking the inhabitants prisoners, burning the villages, and making great ravages on the coast. He ordered the Admiral of the Sicilian galleys, Don Octavio Arragon, to equip six galleys and two galleons; and whilst this expedition was preparing, he proposed to the Grand Duke of Tuscany to join his galleys with them. This Prince sent for answer, that his squadron was going to sea shortly, in an enterprise against Caramania; that the Duke of Ossuna had only to regulate his proceedings in concert, and contrive for the Sicilian galleys to attack at the same time their common enemy.

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This answer of the Grand Duke very much pleased the Viceroy, who made all the necessary preparations for an armament in a country where they preferred ignominiously suffering the insults of the Turks, rather than, by exertion, to avenge themselves. The vessels had a great number of nobility on board, and were ready to set sail, under the orders of Don Octavio, when they learnt that the squadron of the Grand Duke, commanded by his Admiral, had sailed from the port of Leghorn (*Livorno*). The two squadrons sought eagerly to engage the Turks; and took different directions, with equally good success. The Admiral of the Grand Duke of Tuscany went to attack the castle of Agrimano, a well-fortified place with a strong garrison, which he burnt, having first taken an immense spoil: whilst, on the other side, Don Antonio Arragon surprised in the port of Scio twelve Turkish galleys, and many smaller vessels laden with rich merchandize, which surrendered without resistance. Upon the return of this victorious Admiral to Palermo, they

shewed him all possible marks of respect, by order of the Viceroy, who dazzled the eyes of the Sicilians with the sight of the spoils taken from the Turks. They were estimated to amount to six hundred thousand crowns. And what was a still more welcome sight to the Sicilians, they saw landed out of these vessels more than seven hundred Christian slaves now set at liberty, and nearly three thousand Turkish prisoners.

The Viceroy made a judicious distribution of the spoil. He divided it into quarters : one to send to the Court of Spain ; another to be distributed amongst the five principal cities of Sicily ; the third as a reward for the officers, soldiers, and sailors of the squadron ; and the fourth, which certainly was not the least share, he kept for himself. But I should also mention, that he distributed a great portion in alms, and other beneficent works, that were very much applauded.

I must here pause.—My friendly Reader, I begin to perceive that I encroach too much

on the province of the historian : it will be said, that I have undertaken to relate all that passed in Sicily, under the government of the Duke of Ossuna ; when my sole intention is to relate my own history. I shall, therefore, leave to better writers than myself the task of publishing the exploits of this hero, and henceforward speak only of the transactions in which I bore a part. I ought not to forget that my own adventures alone are the subject of these pages.

Although I had the honour of being one of the gentlemen pages to the Viceroy, I was not the richer for it : the post I filled is not so lucrative in great houses as the Steward's or Comptroller's. My companion and myself were well clothed and fed ; but we did not receive an *obole*. The charities of my master, given at the expense of the Turks, passed through different hands ; we had not the good luck to partake of those pious acts.

I now regretted the good Dean, and even Don Henry de Bolagnos. The hundred

crowns wages which the last gave me, and six reals a day for board, now appeared to me preferable to the vain honours of being in the service of the Great. I mentioned this one day to Señor Quivillo, who, more fortunate than myself, had rapidly advanced in promotion: from being simply Gentleman to the Viceroy, he was already become Lieutenant of his Guards. "Señor Don Joseph," said I, "you think you have made my fortune, by introducing me into the household of his Excellency; and I am as much obliged to you, as if I found myself overwhelmed with favours: but, between ourselves, are you not astonished at one thing? namely, ever since I have been page to the Duke, he has never once condescended to have any particular conversation with me. You have already extolled to him my lively wit, and you know nothing gives him more pleasure than exhilarating conversation."

"I am not less surprised than you at what you tell me," said Quivillo: "I have thought of it more than once, and even with

concern ; for you cannot imagine *I* can be satisfied, when *you* are not. It is *I* who caused you to quit a house where you were well situated ; and *I* ought to take a part in what even concerns you. *I* am indeed as much interested for *you* as *myself*. To convince you of it," said he, "I will inform you, that *I* have a very important design in contemplation for you, and consider its success as infallible. *I* am one of the best friends of Thomas, first valet-de-chambre to his Excellency ; and it is to him *I* owe my promotion. You are not ignorant that this servant is his master's favourite, and the depository of his secrets : it is to Thomas that the Duke exposes his failings ; it is Thomas who governs him.

" *I* will spare no pains to make you a favourite with this valet-de-chambre, whose friendship will be very useful to you : *he* can do you great service with his Excellency ; can often put him in mind of you ; and procure you frequent opportunities of speaking to him. This is my intention ;

and I promise you it shall soon be put in force: I am certain that in eight days you will tell me that Thomas is your friend." Don Joseph was so certain on this head, that he said he only wanted one conversation with the valet-de-chambre to engage him to espouse my interest. Besides, Thomas was a man of merit. Born, as one may say, in the house of Giron, after having successively served two Dukes, he had brought up the Viceroy, and gained his favour by accommodating himself to his temper and disposition, which he knew better than any one.

I attached myself, therefore, to this favourite servant; and so well paid my court to him, that in a little time he contracted a real affection for me. It is true I attacked him on his weak side. He piqued himself upon writing the Spanish language with much purity and elegance, and he was very fond of reciting his productions to his friends.

I verily believe, that, like the Druson of Horace, he would gladly have allowed more time to his debtors, provided they would have the complaisance to hear him read his Works. As soon as I perceived he had this passion, so common to authors, I never failed to entreat him to read some part of his Journal; for he had made one of the campaigns in Flanders with his master, and was with him during his residence at the Court of the Archduke; and he wrote, besides, what occurred each day in Sicily. I found in Thomas rather a tedious author, although he was not a bad writer; but he sometimes read so much, that it cost me dear to listen to him. I did not omit, however, to appear much pleased: I even imitated the debtors of Druson; and stretched my neck, to appear to be particularly anxious to hear him.

This journalist, charmed with my complaisance, at length made me his confidant: "Estevanille," said he to me one day, "you shall soon see I am well inclined towards you;

I will henceforward espouse your interests, and steer the bark of your little fortune. Leave me alone to make you necessary to his Excellency ; and be assured I shall seize the first opportunity, which may present itself, of advancing you.” I carried this good news directly to Don Joseph, who rejoiced with me. “Thank God,” said he, “your affairs change their aspect: you will not give me any more uneasiness. Thomas can do every thing; and you may entertain the liveliest hopes.”

Quivillo had good reason to congratulate me upon the acquisition of the friendship of Thomas: and I soon found that my hopes were well grounded on this new friend; who, finding himself attacked with the gout, and obliged to keep his room, sent to me and said, “Gonzalez, I promised to take the first opportunity I could to serve you: one has offered, that shall not escape me. Attend to what is in agitation: lend an attentive ear to what I shall say to you: you have great interest in it. The Viceroy,

our master, in spite of his demure look, is not an enemy to love: although he affects to live in such a manner as to make it believed that the Vice-queen is without a rival, he is seldom without a favourite: he loves at present the Baroness de Conca, who is only eighteen, and indisputably reckoned the most lovely and witty woman in Sicily. This young lady, a short time since, lost her husband, whose least fault was being above fifty. He was jealous, capricious, and a fool; he shut up his wife, and treated her like a slave. She resides, as she is so young, at her mother's, where the Duke often goes to see her; but so secretly, that the Duchess knows nothing of it. It is I who accompany the Duke in these nocturnal gallant visits, which it would not do to make alone; and as, in my present state, it is impossible for me to go with him, I have chosen you to supply my place. I have recommended and answered for you to his Grace, who consents that you shall attend him in my stead, till I am again ready to perform that duty."

I here interrupted Thomas, to return him my thanks for the preference he gave me over many other servants, who would have been delighted with so honourable an employment. He was very anxious I should acquit myself well, and took great pains to instruct me. "You must begin," said he, "with going to his Excellency from me: ask what are his orders; and return to me to receive your instructions."

I lost not a moment; but ran to my master, who was alone in his closet. I entered boldly, thinking I could not fail to appear respectable in his eyes, when I was sent by his faithful servant Thomas. As soon as this nobleman perceived me, he said, in a pleasant manner, "Come hither, Estevanille; it is upon you, my friend, that Thomas has fixed to supply his place: and it is a certain sign that you have understanding; for he has a great deal of penetration."

"He might have made a better choice," I

replied ; “ but your Excellency will probably have the satisfaction of seeing that good man well enough, in eight days, to resume his office.” “ As he is disabled to day,” however, said the Duke, “ and has placed you in my confidence, you shall accompany me: so, my good lad, you must begin to grow old and infirm: I have need of a coadjutor.” “ Permit me to add,” said I, “ that a Nobleman, burthened as you are, with the painful weight of government, should have more than two people to divert him after his fatigues.” The Viceroy, far from being displeased with the liberty I took, smiled at my raillery, and replied, “ that he would find good employment for both.” After which, that he might hear me speak, and judge better of my understanding, he ordered me to tell him what masters I had served. I instantly complied; but when we most wish to excel, we commonly succeed the least: notwithstanding, I had the good fortune to describe my different master’s with so much gaiety, that he was very well satisfied. In fact, he told me so. “ I am very

well pleased with you," said he: "you shall go with me to night. Return to Thomas, and tell him, we shall take the dress of the Friars this evening."

The valet-de-chambre, judging from the account I gave him, of what passed with the Duke, that I had pleased his Excellency, said, "I perceive that my lord has discovered your ability; and your fortune is made. Your joy cannot be greater than mine on this occasion. It is necessary to tell you what you will have to do. Come here this evening, just after the Viceroy rises from supper. He will be with me, to disguise himself as a monk; for in that dress he is accustomed to visit his Baroness. You will disguise yourself in the same manner, and go with him out of the palace; but you must be careful to return before day: these are all the instructions I have to give you." "So you see," said Thomas, smiling, "that he requires nothing from you, on this occasion, but to condescend to be the companion of a Friar."

If the Duke was punctual in going to Thomas's room after supper, I was no less so. We each took the monk's habit without scruple; and when we had so equipped ourselves as to pass easily for monks, who are accustomed to go out at night to confess the sick, we departed from the palace, by a little gate, of which my master only had the key. This nobleman let me see clearly that he was well acquainted with the way to the house of his widow, where we soon arrived, and were received without a light, in so mysterious a manner, that it seemed as if we were visiting a girl, who, tired of waiting, was letting in her lover unknown to the family. The Baroness, although naturally a coquette, very ambitious, and proud of her conquest over the Viceroy, wished nevertheless to keep the knowledge of it from the public: but this was not so much on account of her reputation, as from the fear of drawing upon herself the resentment of the Vice-queen.

Although Thomas had spoken very highly

to me of the Baroness de Conca, I found her far superior to his description. In spite of the conviction in my mind, that Art had done as much for her as Nature, I must acknowledge that I had never seen any woman so beautiful ; but, lovely as her beauty and her ornaments made her appear, she did not engross all my attention : she only divided it with Donna Blanche Sorba, her mother, who, although full sixty years of age, was no unworthy rival of her daughter. Blanche was the widow of a Master of the Rolls of the Royal Domains, and lived at Palermo very respectably with her daughter.

Supposing myself merely brought to these ladies to hold my tongue, like a younger brother who accompanies a monk in a visit, I only expected to play one character ; but they made me play two. Whilst the Duke was indulging himself in one room with the Baroness, Blanche made me go with her into a closet ; where, she said, we might talk freely. I found this a more lively sensible woman than the *Señora Dalfa* ; and

her manners were much superior. Having seated herself on a sopha, and made me sit by her, our conversation would have been agreeable enough, if the lady had better understood the Castilian language, or I the Italian. We could not comprehend each other well; but, fortunately, Blanche spoke Spanish tolerably. She began with lamenting the unfortunate Thomas, who was so tormented with the gout, and shewed as much grief at what he suffered as if she had been the cause of it. Afterwards, changing the conversation, she said, in a jocose manner, "My handsome friend, make me your confidant. How many conquests have you made since you came to Palermo?" "Madam," said I, with the utmost modesty, "you make a jest of your servant: I look upon it that the Sicilian ladies have too much taste to think of casting their eyes upon a person so little deserving of their good opinion as I am." "You ought to have a better opinion of yourself," said the mother of the Baroness; you are very well made; that is easily seen through your disguise; and moreover, you

live in a happy age, when men have only to appear, to attract the attention of women. Perhaps, without knowing it, you have gained the affection of some amiable Sicilian, whom modesty restrains from declaring herself: Suppose it should be so!" said she, laughing. "I most humbly hope, replied I, that the lady will pardon my ingratitude, when she leaves me in ignorance of my happiness." "Oh! you will soon know it," said Blanche; "you will be made sensible of your victory, and will only have to take advantage of it."

The mother of the Baroness pronounced this with an emphasis that, in spite of my inexperience, made me perceive clearly that she was struck with my youth; and it only depended on myself to play the same game with her as my master was playing with her daughter. I even felt myself tempted to push my point, but my courage failed me; and the lady, on her part, not daring this evening to give me more encouragement, put off her explanation till another time.

The delightful moments which my lord passed with his young widow flew with rapidity during this conversation; and sunrise not being far off, I was obliged to acquaint his Excellency that he ought to think of returning. As the morning dawned, he emphatically exclaimed,

“ Fair Aurora, prithee stay,  
And retard returning day.”

But Aurora procrastinates not her progress for lovers: bitter as it may be, part they must. The Duke left his Baroness with reluctance, having been well pleased with his evening's entertainment; and I, in taking leave of Blanche, kissed with transport one of her beautiful hands, to make amends for the affront which my timidity had offered to her advances. We now left our fair widows with as little noise as possible, and returned to the palace.

After visiting Thomas's apartments to unfrock, my master went to his room to repose. For my part, I entered my chamber with the same intention, though I had not so much need of rest as the Duke.

The following day, my first care was to go to my friend Thomas, who shewed great impatience for my arrival, to learn what had passed with the ladies. He asked for a detail of it, and I gave him a very circumstantial one. I had too many obligations to him to be reserved ; and besides, I was not naturally taciturn. As he appeared particularly anxious to know in what manner I was received by Blanche, I related without scruple the interview I had with her ; and I was the more explicit, as he seemed to listen to me with uncommon attention. I added, besides, to my narration the embellishments of a few falsehoods ; not finding in the simple truth poignancy enough to satisfy my vanity, and give a sufficient idea of the important conquest I had made.

I was ignorant that Thomas was in love with this lady ; and hence the pleasure he took in hearing me may be easily conceived. The terms I used to describe the tenderness she lavished upon me were like so many poignards plunged into this poor man's heart.

At times, when I was most flowery in my description, he made the most strange grimaces, which I attributed solely to the gout, but which were, however, the mere workings of jealousy. The more pain he felt at my recital, the more he affected to be pleased; which encouraged me to be communicative. "Gonzalez," said he, with a forced laugh, "I congratulate you upon having inspired with love so charming a woman. Blanche, though a little past her prime, has a fine person. I am much pleased that you suit her taste; and I exhort you to lay aside your timidity the first time you see her again. Women have no objection that the man they love should be rather hasty in consummating their happiness.

The jealous Thomas, in giving me this advice, determined to put it out of my power to follow it; and, a few days after, he let me know that I had a rival. The Duke wished to visit his Baroness, and Thomas, although he was not well, had the honour of accompanying his Excellency. I then

perceived the fault I had committed, and I drew a bad omen from it. "Ah! unhappy wretch that I am!" exclaimed I, "What have I done? What demon, enemy of my advancement, could thus impel me to destroy myself? Imagine not that Thomas will ever pardon you the crime of having pleased his mistress: no longer reckon on his friendship; you have lost this Mæcenas for ever. Even if he be too generous not to seek your ruin, he will certainly never more endeavour to serve you."

In this manner I reproached myself for my indiscretion. My rival, the morning after his interview with Blanche, was more discreet than myself: he neither spoke to me of the lady, nor said one word about where he had been; but he never altered his behaviour to me: whenever I went to see him, he always received me kindly, and shewed me the same friendship as he had done before. He also allowed me (instead of going himself) to accompany his Excellency in his midnight rambles in the city, to hear

what was said amongst the people respecting his government; for the Baroness de Conca was not always the cause of his nocturnal walks. My master, adopting a course never before pursued by the Viceroy's, often disguised himself as a soldier, a beggar, or a sailor, and, walking through the streets in these disguises, conversed freely with the populace; giving them a full opportunity of saying all the good or harm they thought of him.

I do not know if I ought to praise or blame this conduct: but certain it is, that one night I would gladly have given up my place to Thomas. The Duke having joined a knot of villains assembled together to enjoy themselves, began to censure himself for something he had done, in order to hear what they would say of it. Immediately, two or three of them, who perhaps knew him, fell violently upon us, and beat us without mercy, as two enemies of the government. With great difficulty we escaped out of their hands: the Viceroy taking care never to boast of this adventure.

The honour of sharing in such foolish pranks as these was all that I now gained; for I was no more permitted to visit the house of Blanche. Thomas, whose jealousy seemed to have cured him of the gout, took great pains to hinder me from going there; and, happily, I cared little about it: preserving the friendship of Thomas was of more consequence to me than the favour of his mistress. I stuck closer to him than ever; and if, by my attentions, I did not totally obliterate the unhappy effect which my love-disclosure had made upon him, I obliged him at least to pretend so. He appeared more attentive to me than ever: I was delighted with it; and imagined that, satisfied with keeping me at a distance from Blanche, he had nothing else lurking in his mind against me.

I became therefore perfectly easy about Thomas; but I met with a fresh adventure, which effectually served to complete my ruin. A young citizen of Palermo, stopping me

one day in the street, said to me, with a sorrowful accent, "I hope, Señor, you will pardon the liberty I take in stopping you: I see by your livery you are page to the Viceroy, and I wish much to have a quarter of an hour's conversation with you, to communicate a very important affair. If you are willing to venture to oblige an honest man, I beg you will take the trouble to follow me." I told him he could not find any one more disposed to do a kind action than myself: upon which he conducted me to a house which appeared to belong to some one in easy circumstances. Taking me into a chamber, where I found an old man in bed, "Señor Page," said he, turning to him, "you see before you my father, in a state which must excite your compassion. He is fallen sick with vexation, at having been deceived by a merchant, who has taken from him a deposit of ten thousand crowns. We are ruined irreparably, if we cannot find some friend who has interest enough to induce the Viceroy to take cognizance of the villainous transaction."

“ You know very well,” returned I, “ that the Duke is easy of access : he is polite, affable, and hears with patience all kinds of complaints. However, although you have no occasion for a recommendation to go to him, I will readily undertake to do you all the service in my power: I flatter myself with being his favourite page. Inform me minutely of your business, and I engage that his Excellency will do you justice.” At these words, both father and son poured forth abundance of thanks for my good will to them ; and concluded their compliments with promising me a present of two hundred pistoles. “ Softly, Gentlemen,” said I, “ you must know that it is forbidden that any servant of the Viceroy should receive the least present from any one on whom he has conferred an obligation, under penalty of being driven from the palace, and severely chastised.” It was but too true, that the Duke had given formal notice of this to all his attendants. “ This regulation is too severe,” said the old man: “ How can I prove to you that I am not ungrateful ? It

is mortifying, that we can only acknowledge by words the services that have been rendered us." "A Spanish benefactor requires no more," said I, haughtily: "Let us lay aside superfluous conversation, and tell me how you have been cheated." The old man then began as follows.

" My name is Giannetino: I am the son of an Advocate, who died rather poor than rich, after having worked hard all his life. This was attributed to his excessive disinterestedness, and the scrupulous integrity on which he piqued himself. After his death, I had the good fortune to marry a widow, who had twelve thousand crowns for her fortune: so that, when my little fortune was joined to hers, it put me in a condition to appear respectably in Palermo. I had also the reputation of being an honourable man in business: but at this moment, you see before you one of the most miserable of citizens; and I shall be ruined, if I lose the cause now pending against me; the particulars of which are these:

“ Six months ago, Charles Azarini, Peter Scannati, and Jerome Avellino, merchants of my acquaintance, came to me with a Notary, and a sum of ten thousand crowns in gold.” “ We have chosen you,” said they, “ to be guardian of this money, which we want to put on board a ship, when we find occasion. In the mean time, we wish you to take charge of it ; and to give us a written promise that you will not deliver it to any one of us, but in the presence of the other two.” “ I willingly bound myself therefore, by an agreement, drawn up by the Notary, which we all signed; and I carefully preserved the deposit, to be returned to the three associates when they should demand it. A short time since, Jerome Avellino knocked one night at my door ; and when it was opened, he burst into my room in great agitation. “ Seignor Giannetino,” said he, “ if I disturb you out of your sleep, you must excuse me, on account of the important occasion which makes it necessary. My two associates and myself have learned that a Genoese vessel, richly laden with

merchandise, upon which we can make a great profit, will soon be at Messina; and we have determined to make use of the ten thousand crowns you have of ours. Give them to me instantly, then, if you please: my horse is at the door, and I die with impatience to be at Messina."

"Seignor Avellino," answered I, "you seem to have forgotten that I can only deliver them in the presence of all three." "Oh yes," interrupted he, "I remember very well that it is so in the agreement; and that you are only to deliver the money when the three associates are together: but Azarini and Scannati are ill: they cannot come with me to you: they entreat you, as well as myself, not to mind the agreement, but to deliver the money directly. The moments are precious: you have nothing to fear, I am an honest man; and I cannot suppose that, by a want of confidence which is revolting to our friendship, you will cause us to lose so good an opportunity. Make haste, I conjure you: I am impatient to be at

Messina." Heaven, which no doubt secretly inspired me, made me hesitate for a long time ere I gave up the money; but Avellino, the wily Avellino, entreated me, pressed me, tormented me to such a degree, that he at last overpowered my reluctance; and I had the folly to comply with his request.

The old man, in relating this act of imprudence, could not refrain from shedding tears. I was affected, and said, "Do not afflict yourself: my lord Duke has long arms: Avellino will have some difficulty to escape him." "Avellino," said the son of the old citizen, "is unfortunately at a great distance from this place; and, what is still worse, Azarini and Scannati no sooner heard of the roguery of their associate, than they came thundering upon my father, to demand the money with which they had entrusted him. This affair will be decided in two days; and, to all appearance, the judge will condemn him to pay the ten thousand crowns." "It is not yet decided," said I; and I do not doubt but when the Viceroy

comes to be informed (as he shall be) of all the circumstances of this suit, he will decide it himself."

I immediately made a faithful report of the whole affair to his Excellency; who said to me, after hearing it with much attention, and laughing at his own thoughts: "I will give a judgment in this business that shall make some noise in the world." The next morning he sent for the parties, who appeared before him. He ordered the prosecutors to speak first; and when they had pleaded on their side, he addressed himself to the defendant. "Giannetino," said he, "what answer have you to make to your adversaries?" "None, my lord," said Giannetino, bowing his head lowly, and resting his chin upon his breast: "he is right, gentlemen," said the Duke, addressing himself to Azarini and Scannati. "He has no answer to make to you: he adheres to the agreement made with you, and is ready to deliver to you the ten thousand crowns deposited with him; but as, according to the

agreement, he cannot deliver them but in the presence of the three associates, bring Avellino back to Palermo, and you shall receive them."

This judgment of the Duke of Ossuna made every body present laugh, and it became the universal topic of conversation all over Italy. Giannetino and his son, who thought themselves inevitably ruined, and delighted to find themselves freed from such a perplexity, invited me, by way of acknowledgment, to dine with them. After dinner they laid before me the two hundred pistoles, which they had offered, and I had refused. What a sight for me! They began by pressing me to accept them, assuring me that no one should ever hear of the transaction. Man is very weak! They pressed me so often, they made so many entreaties, their tongues were so persuasive, that I found it impossible any longer to resist their eloquence: the money was moreover in a handsome purse, which I put into my pocket, and we all felt mutually pleased.

I was not, however, altogether without uneasiness, when I reflected that my master would not suffer in his house a shameful traffic of his favours: but I thought this little slip would not come to his knowledge; and, truly, the two Giannetini would never have spoken of it, if the Duke had not, three days after, sent to question him in my presence. The old man was averse to lying, yet dared not speak the truth, for fear of ruining me: he felt much agitated, and, for my own part, the ground shook under me. "Do not disguise any thing," said the Duke, in an angry threatening manner: "I order you, under pain of my displeasure, to tell me what mark of acknowledgment Gonzalez has received from you, for his interference?" The citizen, who knew the Duke was a man before whom it was dangerous to lie, owned that he had given me two hundred pistoles: but added, by way of extenuation, that he and his son had forced me to accept them. "I do not blame you," said the Duke, "for offering him money; but *he* ought not to have taken it,

knowing my delicacy on that subject, and that I have positively forbidden it. This is what I cannot pardon." Having said this, the Duke turned to me, and asked what I had done with the two hundred pistoles in question. "They are in my room, my lord," I replied, "as they were given me." "Very well," said the Duke; "go and fetch them here directly." I obeyed; and when I gave him the purse, he put it into the hands of one of his gentlemen, saying, "Go, give this money to the poor: they alone ought to profit by the imprudence of Giannetino. As for you, Gonzalez, you may go where you please: you are no longer in my service: I forbid you ever again to set foot in my palace." Throwing myself upon my knees before the Duke, I hoped to excite his compassion: but this humiliation was useless: he gave me a tremendous look, and immediately turned his back upon me. Running directly to Thomas, with my face bathed in tears, I informed him of my disgrace; for which he seemed to be sorry, and promised

to make an attempt to appease his Excellency.

No one could have done this better than he ; and he certainly could have brought it about, if he had undertaken it. But Thomas, more jealous than generous, was secretly pleased at my misfortune ; and took care never to intercede for me. He did not, however, omit telling me that he had used all his endeavours to obtain my pardon. " I represented to my lord," said he, " every thing that could possibly excuse you : I even told him that I was as much interested for you, as if you were my own son : in a word, I have omitted nothing, to endeavour to get you re-established in his good graces : but nothing will soften him ; he is quite inexorable ; and even remarked, that it was too great an indulgence merely to turn you away, and that you deserved to be treated with more rigour. My dear Gonzalez," said the perfidious Thomas, embracing me, " you cannot imagine how grieved I am, not to be able to serve you on this occasion."

The deceitful valet-de-chambre, in order to make me believe that he spoke with sincerity and was still my friend, offered me a purse containing twenty pistoles, which I took with many thanks, having lost all hopes of keeping my place with the Viceroy; but, before I left the palace, I went to take leave of Quivillo, who had already heard of my misfortune. “Estevanille, my friend,” said he, as soon as he saw me, “I know all. My lord, whom I have just left, has related to me all that passed; and I have in vain attempted to obtain your pardon: I am really grieved at your misfortune.” My parting with this kind man was affecting; but he had been able to obtain for me, from his Excellency, a plaster of a hundred pistoles, with which I retired, more than half consoled for my misfortune.

The first person I met, on going out of the palace, was the son of Giannetino. “I was looking for you,” said he, “to beg you will come to my father’s house. It is but just, that a man who has destroyed himself, in

rendering us service, should be consoled by us for his misfortunes." Not waiting to be asked twice, I allowed myself to be conducted to the house, where I was received by both father and son, with every token of gratitude and friendship.

I had already been there fifteen days, when the old man said to me : " My dear Gonzalez, I look upon you as a second son ; and I wish to establish you comfortably in Palermo. It has come into my head to place you with an old Apothecary, who is a relation of mine ; and, what is still more, he is a friend : he will soon teach you his business ; and, besides, you may marry his only child, Violetta ; who is not, in truth, a perfect beauty, but agreeable, and reckoned one of the most sensible girls in Palermo : besides, she will have a good fortune on the death of her father. Reflect on this. If you like the match, and have no objection to become an Apothecary, I will propose the thing to my relation."

I demanded four and twenty hours to consider the matter; and during that time I cast the thing every way in my mind, both for and against. Sometimes the idea of decoctions and purgatives made me feel an aversion to physic; and turning it over again, I saw nothing disgusting in them. I deemed it preferable to surgery. "I would not be a surgeon," said I: "one should have a heart of steel to perform surgical operations. But it is not so with an apothecary: he has no occasion to be cruel, in making his compositions." Having at length well considered the matter, I determined to accept the situation which Giannetino designed for me; and this generous Sicilian was only waiting for my answer, to speak to the Apothecary, who made no objection to the proposal.

I went immediately to live with my intended father-in-law, whose name was Andrew Potoschi. He was a very learned man in his profession, an excellent chemist, and a great observer of human-nature. He had

made some very curious discoveries, and possessed many valuable secrets of great importance to the ladies ; amongst others, that of giving them a beautiful bloom, by a wash of his own invention. He had a pomatum that filled up the wrinkles of old age, and brought a youthful skin upon the face of a grandmother. As it was his intention to give up his shop a short time after I had married his daughter, he took great pains to instruct me in his secrets. He first of all taught me the most genteel way of pounding drugs in a mortar, and the most dextrous method of applying a clyster. Potoschi found me very capable of becoming a skilful apothecary ; and he spared no pains in instructing me. I was, in fact, very assiduous. I almost imagine I hear a jocular reader exclaim, as he reads this, “ Aha ! master Gonzalez, you have not told us all : but one may easily guess, why you so readily and so heartily took up this trade. The beauty that is to be the reward of your labour, excites you to diligence. Come, let us have a description of her person—sparkling eyes, no

doubt, with rosy cheeks, and a graceful figure. She must have been very lovely!"

I must confess, indeed, that the charming Violetta was the greatest temptation they could have thrown in my way, to prompt me to a quick progress in medicine. She was about three and twenty, pleasing in her person, and very sensible. She was, moreover, very reserved, which is an extraordinary thing in Sicily, where the greater part of the women are coquetish, almost to impudence. She had lived, since the death of her mother (which had taken place ten years before), under the care of an old governess. Upon the footing I was in the house, I had the liberty of conversing with Violetta; but respect on my part, and modesty on hers, presided over our conversations; or, to speak more plainly, I had too much timidity to ask, and the lady too much virtue to anticipate.

Potoschi was in such estimation, that no other apothecary in Palermo had more

practice ; and persons came to him from all parts. When he could not find time to attend to all his patients, he sent me in his place : so that, in the houses where I attended for him, they called me his confidential man. One day, when I was alone in the shop, there came in a lady, who asked for the master of the house. "Madam," said I, "he is gone into the city : but I am the same as himself. You may tell me what you please to have."—"I wish to inform him," said she, "that the Baroness de Conca, my mistress, wishes to see him this evening."—"Enough," said I, "he will not fail to wait on her." Upon this, the lady's maid, Abigail as she was, would not amuse herself with talking longer to me ; but made me a low curtsey, and retired.

A few minutes after, the Apothecary came back, and immediately returned to carry a powder he had prepared for an old President, who was going, in two days, to marry a girl of fifteen. "Sir," said I, "the Baroness de Conca wishes to see you this evening."

Potoschi smiled at these words, which made me think there was some mystery in the matter. We lived together on so familiar a footing, that I did not hesitate to ask him why he smiled so wickedly at the name of the Baroness. "My kinsman," said he, for he never called me by any other appellation, "as you have been page to the Viceroy, I think you must know that this lady is his mistress. Take great care not to reveal what I shall tell you. The discretion of apothecaries, as well as surgeons, should be proof against every thing; but we must have some confidant to enjoy the joke properly."

I pretended ignorance, to let my future father-in-law go on; which he did in this style. "I have known the Baroness de Conca from her infancy; as well as Donna Blanche Sorba, her mother. I have, for a long time, been apothecary to these two widows. It was I who furnished the drugs in the illness of which their husbands died. Both of them live in entire confidence with me; and, in fact, I am very useful to both."

To Blanche, who is as black as a mole, and full of pimples, I give the bloom of a cherubim: thanks to a certain wash, and a certain pomatum, which I will teach you how to make! When this woman has spent three hours at her toilette, she appears so unlike what she naturally is, that it may be termed a real metamorphosis: it is not astonishing, therefore, that Señor Thomas, that damned soul of the Duke of Ossuna, 'should make her his idol.'

"According to what I observe, father-in-law," said I, "this beautiful mamma has great obligations to you." "Her daughter has not much less," he replied: "the Baroness, young as she is, has infirmities, which oblige her to have an issue in the leg; which, by my care, is kept from offending the nicest nose: besides, my wash and pomatum are not useless with her also. In short, the Baroness, in having pleased the Viceroy, is more indebted to my secrets than to Nature."

While Potoschi was talking in this manner, I felt myself quite in an ecstasy of joy; above

all, I was perfectly easy about Thomas, respecting whom I discovered nothing worthy of envy. I was very well pleased with my indiscretion ; as if I had made a mystery to this valet-de-chambre of my conversation with Blanche, I should certainly have been drawn into an attachment to this woman, and should still have loved this face of a negro under the mask of pomatum. I should not be, (thought I,) as I now am, on the point of being married to the charming Violetta, who owes none of her attractions to the art of her father.

To deserve the gathering of this lovely flower, I laboured all the day in the shop ; and I surprised the Apothecary by the rapid progress I made in his business ; which, in fact, requires not the aid of the black art to understand ; although it is rather difficult to remember all the barbarous and diabolical names of the drugs. I had already learned how to mix all sorts of compositions ; when one day they brought us two prescriptions of Doctor Arriscador, a physician of Navarre, and who passed, in his day, for the

Hippocrates of Palermo. The Barons, the Counts, and the Marquises, who fell sick, would only die by his hands. We were ordered to mix two medicines, one for a Lawyer, who had brought on a defluxion of the lungs in pleading; the other for a Clergyman, who had contracted a pleurisy in running after preferment. I measured out the drugs and simple waters mentioned in the prescriptions; and when I had made the two mixtures, I took them to the sick: but I gave, like a young blockhead as I was, the draught of the Lawyer to the Clergyman, and that of the Ecclesiastic to the Lawyer. I unfortunately never perceived my mistake, till I had made them swallow the medicines, quite to the last drop.

I reproached myself for this blunder, and cursed my pragmatical spirit. I pitied the unhappy patients who had fallen into my hands; and, looking upon them as already dead, I returned home in great agitation. If I had been a more experienced apothecary, I should have returned coolly to my shop, without troubling myself about the false step

I had made; but I had not had time to harden myself in practice; and I appeared so troubled, that Potoschi asked me what I had done. I ingenuously owned my fault, and said I was extremely sorry: he only laughed. "One may see by your afflicted air, my kinsman," said he, "that you are only a novice; you are quite ridiculous to have so much feeling for a mistake in your business. Why take such things to heart? You make yourself quite contemptible. Lack a-day! is not man subject to mistakes, particularly in our profession? Is it not what they commonly say of an apothecary, 'He gives one for t'other!' Do not you suppose we often blunder?—Oh! truly," said he, "I have often done it in my life: but I did not make proclamation of it at Rome!"

"But, Señor Potoschi," said I, "you are a good judge of drugs. Do you think these two men will die of those I have made them take?" "I can say nothing about that," said he, "I do not know enough of the properties of medicines to be sure of the effects they will produce. At all events, for

safety's sake, we must insist on it that we have exactly followed the prescription ; and be careful to conceal the truth. If these two patients die (which may probably happen), the Physician will thus have all the credit of it to himself."

We came, therefore, to the resolution of putting a good face upon the matter ; and if the patients should die, Doctor Arriscador would have all the credit of the murders ; who, for our comfort, was in high reputation. Next day, this physician entered our shop in great emotion ; and we supposed he was come to announce the death of the two patients. On the contrary, he brought good news. " My friends," said he, " I cannot contain my joy, or rather my rapture. The two last prescriptions I sent here deserve to be consecrated in the temple of Esculapius, as two specifics ; one for the pleurisy, the other for defluxions of the lungs. You will scarcely credit what I am going to tell you. Scarcely had the Clergyman and Advocate taken their respective medicines, than they felt instant relief : they have slept soundly

all night; and on waking this morning, find themselves quite well. Oh! unheard-of prodigy! The fame of these two wonders is already spread throughout the city. What honour is it for me, to have so immediately triumphed over two mortal dieases. My children, you should also rejoice at such an unheard-of victory: you have also contributed, by the fidelity of your composition. A part of the glory, that will fall upon me, will also shine on you."

The Doctor was so satisfied with the happy success of his prescriptions, that he could not leave off congratulating himself. For our parts, who knew the secret history, we were ready to laugh in our sleeves at it; but the respect apothecaries owe to doctors of physic kept us from such irreverence.

A little time after this adventure there happened another, which did not terminate so happily. The Baroness de Conca fell sick: she sent for Potoschi, who, not understanding her case, called in Doctor Arrisdador. This physician, after having made his

observations on the disorder, of which he could no more find out the cause than the Apothecary, ordered what medicine appeared best to him. Potoschi prepared the medicine himself, and I carried it.

I found the Baroness in so dangerous a state, that I boded no good from it. I do not imagine the prognostics of a young apothecary are more infallible than those of a physician: but I certainly augured ill of the state in which I found this unhappy lady. Donna Blanche, her mother, was with her, in great agitation, very uneasy, and much alarmed. So far from recollecting me again, she never once looked at me; and for my part, if I had not known it was Blanche, I should never have recognised her again, in the frightful state of neglect in which she appeared. Abandoned entirely to the cares of maternal tenderness, she only thought of her daughter: allowing her charms to lay fallow, as one may say, she plainly shewed how much she was indebted to the pomatum. I approached the Baroness, gave her the medicine, and returned home; whither

they soon came to tell us, that the invalid, after swallowing the draught, fell asleep ; and, on awaking, uttered dreadful screams, and died in the most excruciating agony, in the arms of her mother.

We were a little affected, not at the loss of the Baroness, but for the consequences which might result from it. We feared that it might make a bad impression on the world ; for the public are apt to be censorious, when they see a patient die suddenly who has taken your remedies. The first attack is made on the physician ; but the apothecary does not get clear off. We should have been fortunate, if we had had no other cause to fear, than for our reputation : we had a much greater game to play. The next morning we were both arrested, by order of the Viceroy, and conducted to prison ; where we learned the cause of our confinement. They told us, that, by the orders of the Duke of Ossuna, the body of the Baroness de Conca had been opened, and there were found indisputable marks of poison : that his Excellency had been in-

formed of it; and, in order to discover the author of so black a transaction, he had thought proper to arrest the persons who had prepared and administered the draught.

They shut us up in separate dungeons, and the following day we were both examined. However innocent a prisoner may feel himself when he is accused of a great crime, the testimony of his own conscience cannot make him entirely easy; and he rarely supports with firmness the presence of his judge. This was plainly exemplified by Potoschi, in his examination; for, instead of taking pains to exculpate me as well as himself, he asserted he had made the draught faithfully; but he could not say if it was the same which I carried. When they examined me, I said the same; and declared that I had faithfully carried the draught, exactly as it was prepared by the Apothecary; but I could not be certain that he used the drugs ordered in the prescription of the physician. In this manner we each sought to draw ourselves out of the affair, at the expense of the other.

The Viceroy, who was anxious to have the account of our depositions, was so little satisfied with them, that imagining, if he interrogated us himself, he should, by the wiliness of his understanding, get the secret from us, came himself into the prison, and ordered us to be brought before him. He had never seen me since the day I was banished from his palace, and had never heard what was become of me. Judge, then, the surprise of this nobleman, when I was brought into the room to be examined. "What! is that you, González!" said he, "you unhappy wretch, who have made the Baroness take the perfidious draught which has so suddenly terminated her days?" At these words he made those who were present go out of the room, even the Apothecary; and when he was alone with me, he said, "You know the reasons that induce me to revenge this lady: you probably know the secret enemies that have torn her from me. Name them to me: your pardon is the reward." I answered the Duke, "that if the Baroness died of poison, it must have been given her before the draught I took to her: that I was

not skilful enough in physic to be a poisoner ; and no one had tempted me to be so."

" If offering to pardon you," said the Viceroy, " will not compel you to reveal what I want to know, we will see if you will steadily keep silence upon the rack." I was terrified at these words ; and, as if I had been on the point of being placed on the fatal wheel, I fell on my knees before his Excellency, and, bursting into tears, " My lord," I cried, " have pity on Estevanille, your former servant ! You, who are the protector of innocence, cannot surely resolve to put to cruel torment a man who has nothing to confess to you : if you tear me to atoms, you will gain no knowledge of this affair from me : all I can tell you is, that I know nothing of the affair." Happily for me, I had to deal with a judge of some penetration. He saw plainly that I was not guilty : and the conversation he had afterwards with Potoschi helped to convince him that, if the draught we had administered had deprived the Baroness of life, we had no intention that it should do so. He no longer

spoke to me of torture, but still gave no orders for me to be set at liberty ; so that I remained fifteen days in prison, with the Apothecary.

At last, we were both liberated, and resumed our labours in the shop as before. Our first attention was directed to the ladies who came to our fountain of youth. Blanche was not the last to lay in her stock of wash and pomatum. Potoschi carried her a large supply of them ; and this lady had a conversation with him which I must not pass over in silence. "Señor Potoschi," said she, "you cannot imagine how much I am hurt at the misfortune that has befallen you, on account of the death of my daughter. If the Viceroy would have followed my advice, he would have spared you an unjust and odious accusation. The Baroness, it is true, was poisoned : but is it difficult to guess at the author of the crime ? It must be recollected, that the Viceroy loved a young Greek, and she died a violent death. Her death was imputed to the jealousy of his wife. It follows, that we need not look else-

where for the assassin of my daughter : a cook, who left me three days ago, struck the blow; and the Vice-queen ordered it. The Duke is now so much convinced of it, that he drops all inquiries, for fear he should learn more than he ought to know; and the affair is quite hushed up."

A man just liberated from prison, however well washed he may be from the crime he is falsely accused of, never ceases to think that the world looks shy upon him ; at least I thought so, and it made me contract an aversion for Palermo. It was only necessary to cease to love Violetta, to whom I had felt a real attachment, to complete this disgust; and it was not long before this took place. A young officer of the Inquisition had taken a great deal of pains to make himself agreeable to the Apothecary's daughter ; and, happily for me, he pleased her :—I say happily ; for if, unhappily, she had given me the preference, my rival, to revenge himself, would have procured me a lodging in the Inquisition, where I should most likely have remained to this day. I discovered on

this occasion, that I was not one of those obstinate lovers who inflexibly contend with all rivals, and will never suffer the fair object of ~~their~~ vows to marry another. On the contrary, as soon as I saw Violetta in the mind to sacrifice me to her new gallant, I gave her to the Devil, with all the drugs in her father's shop ; and without taking leave of any one, I hastened to the port, where, finding a Genoese vessel ready to sail, I embarked in her for Leghorn.

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BOOK III.

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I HAD no particular reason for going to Leghorn: I only wished for a change of place; and could not resolve to continue any longer in Palermo, after all the mortifications I had undergone there. During the passage, I made acquaintance with a young man, whose name was Ferrari, a gentleman of Pisa, who was returning home. He had been to see his relations, who lived at Mont Real, but particularly an aunt, to whom he was sole heir.

As an honorary page of the Viceroy thinks he may put himself upon a footing with a simple gentleman, I intruded myself upon Ferrari with an easy air. He was of a cheerful disposition: he pleased me, and I had the happiness to please him also. We became attached to each other; and, to cement our growing friendship, we made confidants of each other; in which there

was less sincerity on my part than on his. I boldly gave myself out for noble: and I think I was right in so doing; for a gentleman has naturally a contempt for a person of mean extraction. If Ferrari had known my history, he probably would have disdained my acquaintance; instead of which, taking me for a person of noble blood, he gave way, without repugnance, to the liking he had contracted for me. He was not willing that we should part when we arrived at Leghorn. "We will not quit each other," said he: "I will take you to Pisa, and keep you there some time with me." It was impossible to resist his entreaties: I allowed myself to acquiesce; and we both took the road to Pisa, where he promised to make my visit very pleasant, by the variety of amusements he proposed to give me.

I must acknowledge, that he spared no pains to make my stay agreeable; and a month passed away very pleasantly. I wished afterwards to take my leave of him, for fear of encroaching too much upon his

friendship ; but, far from consenting to my departure, he reproached me for my impatience, to leave a man who had conceived so great a friendship for me. " What obliges you to leave me ? " said he : " you have acknowledged, more than once, that my disposition pleases you ; and I am quite satisfied with yours. I have property enough to support both : remain with me therefore, and let us live like brothers." I felt myself quite affected with this friendly offer ; and, to evince my gratitude, I resolved to consent to live at his expense, since he was so anxious I should do so. But he did not stop here : he insisted on clothing me, at his own expense, from head to foot ; and, in order not to give him offence, I had the complaisance to permit him to perform all these acts of kindness. The acquisition of so good a friend made me forget all my former misfortunes ; or rather, I looked upon my present situation as a fortune made. But, alas ! there is nothing certain in human affairs.

Whilst we were living in this state

of happiness, the chevalier Ferrari happened, by chance, to cast his eyes upon a young lady, with whom he fell desperately in love; and this love proved fatal to our friendship. He had often sworn to me he would never marry; but he had not the fortitude to keep his oath. Ferrari's heart was not made of stone; and Engracia charmed him: he paid his addresses to her, and, as she had both birth and good principles, he married her. For some time after he married, he was so far from relaxing in his friendship towards me, that his attentions seemed to increase.

He strongly recommended to his wife to pay the same attention to me as to him. "Engracia," said he to her, before me; "Gonzalez is my friend. If I am dear to you, let him see, by your behaviour to him, that you partake of my sentiments." Engracia, to please her husband, promised him so to do; and kept her word. She never lost an opportunity of saying obliging things to me, and to give me tokens of

good-will; but all this was unnatural: jealous of the attachment her husband had to me, she secretly hated me; and her aversion went such lengths, that she resolved, by some means or other, to get me away from Pisa. The expedient she made use of is too remarkable to pass over in silence.

“Señor Gonzalez,” she said to me, one day, when we were alone, “I must place a confidence in you, in an affair that concerns you, and on which depends the future repose of my life. I feel an inclination for you, almost amounting to love, and I am alarmed by it: I have used my endeavours to overcome this weakness, but in vain: you triumph, and my duty and virtue are contending. It is from you alone that I can hope for assistance. Go, immediately, far distant from a house, of which you disturb the happiness. I conjure you, by all the rights of hospitality, and still more by the friendship that my husband has for you, fly from me. The confession I have made to you, of my weakness, imposes on you the obligation to

depart. When far distant from so fascinating an object, I may regain my tranquillity, and my husband the wife he adores. You are, I hope, too honourable to think of dishonouring your friend."

I became the dupe of this fine rhapsody; and really imagined that this sweet creature was passionately in love with me, and, distrusting her own strength, besought me to fly to save her. If I had had less attachment to my friend, I might have been tempted to follow the example of Paris; but instead of carrying off my beautiful hostess, I bade her an eternal adieu. I secretly escaped from the house, one fine morning, and left her to invent what she thought proper to tell her husband, as the reason of my going. I have since learnt, by the bye, that, to console him, she told him I had fallen in love with her; that I had avowed my passion with the greatest importunity; but, on her stedfast refusal, I had gone away, enraged at being foiled in my attempt upon her fidelity.

I took the road to Florence, mounted upon a shabby hired horse; and very well pleased with my person, when I reflected that ladies were obliged to drive me away from them, for fear they should fall in love with me. I had not rode more than three miles, when I was overtaken by two cavaliers, better mounted than myself. After saluting each civilly, I asked if they were going to Florenee. They answered in the affirmative. "Then, gentlemen," said I, "if agreeable to you, I will have the honour of joining your company." Giving me politely to understand that my company would be agreeable to them, we trav'led on pleasantly together.

We stopped to sleep at St. Miniato, in an inn well stocked with provisions: the host, having lived a long time with a German cardinal, was an excellent cook, and gave us a famous supper: gaiety presided over the repast. If I let these gentlemen see that I abounded in good humour, it was also plainly perceived that they loved enjoyment. I found that they both belonged to Geneva.

“ I am a jeweller,” said one ; “ and I have the misfortune of being married to a woman who gives me every reason in the world to complain of her.”—“ And I have the happiness to be a bachelor,” said the other ; “ but my father, who is an old gentleman, very rich, and very avaricious, I am afraid will never die. He enjoys such perfect health, that when he departs this life, I am sure I shall find no other use for his money than to buy crutches and spectacles.”

The host, who was present, addressing the Genevans, said, “ If you are anxious, gentlemen, to be informed how soon you will be disengaged, ‘ he one of his father, and the other of his wife, there is in this neighbourhood a most cunning necromancer, who knows every thing.’ ” I burst out laughing at the host’s information ; but he assured us, with the greatest gravity, that the magician, of whom he spoke, had the reputation of being a great cabalist. “ I could tell you of twenty people to whom he has predicted things which have come to pass. Ten months ago, for example, an

old man who has a young wife, whom he thought barren, went to ask this wise man if he should die without the satisfaction of being a father? The necromancer informed him, that within a year his wife would bring him a child; and, true enough, she was brought to bed eight days ago."

This oracle, the accomplishment of which, probably, was the work of a friend of the old man's, amused us highly. However, as one of the Genoese delighted in the marvellous, and was, tempted to have some conversation with the cabalist, he asked the host where the conjuror resided? "Only two miles off," said the host: "he lives in a cavern, at the foot of a mountain, near Castellina." "Gentlemen," said the Genevan, "although I must confess that I have but little faith in necromancy, I will acknowledge that I have a desire to see this magician." "I am impressed with the same curiosity," said the other Genevan; "and why should we not see him?" "Do not suppose," said I, "that I am less curious than you to converse with so great a man."

We resolved, therefore, to set out next morning, with a guide to conduct us to the residence of the magician; and we went accordingly.

Being come to the foot of a steep mountain, we perceived a cavern, closed with a very thick door, at which we knocked loudly. It was some time before any one answered: but at length we heard from within a deep sepulchral voice, demanding what we wished to have? We had no sooner replied that we came to consult the oracle, than the door instantly opened. The first object which struck our sight was the necromancer. Figure to yourself a man, more than six feet high, clothed in a white robe, on which was painted, in red, all the signs of the zodiac. On his head was an immense fur cap, made of the skin of a wolf, and on the top a tiger's head. Instead of hair, he had artificial snakes hanging about his shoulders. His whole attire gave him a most frightful appearance. The two Genevans, addressing him, said, that, from the high reputation he held, as a cabalist, they

had come a great way to consult him, on affairs of the utmost importance. He replied, that he was not what they imagined. The gentlemen, however, by dint of prayers and entreaties, mixed with flattery, induced him at length to own that he was initiated in all the mysteries of necromancy; but they gained no ground by that avowal, for he said he never employed the powers of his art, but for those who really stood in need. They both protested they had need of his assistance, and that they were far from being actuated by idle curiosity. Upon this, he made no further opposition to their desires; and, to shew them he did not work without reward, he exhibited some valuable presents, that noble strangers had made him, for having unveiled futurity to them.

Whilst my comrades and he were conversing together, I examined, with extreme attention, the inside of his cavern, which was full of objects not to be beheld without terror. On one side was a lion, with glaring eyes and open mouth; on the other, a furious

tiger, with extended claws, as if to tear you to pieces ; and above was a winged dragon, apparently ready to rush upon you. All these figures, though formed of osier, and covered with painted pasteboard, were contrived with so much art, that if these animals had been animated, they could scarcely have inspired more terror. These objects, which I could not behold without trembling, contributed to impress beholders with a belief that the master of the cavern must be a great magician ; and my companions, whose admiration he had excited by his marvellous recitals, were decidedly of that opinion : for my own part, inexperienced as I was, I suspended my judgment.

The Necromancer, surprised to find me so attentively observing the surrounding objects, asked the Genevans why I seemed to avoid conversation ? They replied, that I did not avoid him ; but, being a Spaniard of an inquiring disposition, I took great pleasure in looking at whatever was curious in the cavern. When he was informed I was a

Spaniard, he shewed some hesitation. "I do not like," said he, "to exercise my art before men of that nation: they have generally great penetration; and, being incredulous, are apt to treat us as mountebanks." "There is no rule without exception," said one of the Genevans: "we will answer for this cavalier; for although he is a Spaniard, you will find him a great admirer of an extraordinary man who makes even demons obey him. He has nothing of the sceptic about him, we assure you; and you may boldly, in his presence, exhibit what we want to know of your art."

Upon this assurance, the Magician made no further difficulty. He called for some one, whose assistance was necessary; and there soon appeared, by the side of him, the figure of a man as horrible as himself.

These two monsters made us go into a back room, more obscure than the first; in the midst of which, upon a table of black marble, stood a large glass globe. We ap-

proached his table ; and observed that round the globe were inscribed all the letters of the alphabet, in large characters, upon a strip of white parchment. But what particularly attracted our attention, was a sort of dwarf, that appeared within, in a fire-coloured habit, which the Magician said was the spirit he consulted. This little demon held his right arm raised up ; and his eyes looked like two burning coals.

At first, the Necromancer addressed him in a high tone of voice ; and with all the gravity in the world, said, “ Uriel, superb genius ! whom I have forced to pay obedience to me, by the power of my enchantments, I order you to answer these gentlemen instantly, and let them know what they are desirous of inquiring. Are you disposed to obey me readily ; or must I employ such terrible words as you cannot resist ? ” Uriel made no answer ; but the enchanter, who without doubt could read in the eyes of the demon what he thought, said to the Genevans : “ Gentlemen, you may be satisfied that the spirit accedes to the power of my

conjuration: you have only to say, each of you, what you wish to learn, and he will answer you."—"I have a father, old, rich, and very avaricious," said one of the Genevans, "and I am very impatient to become his heir: command your Genius to tell me how long I shall have to wait for his death." "That you shall be informed of presently," returned the cabalist.

Upon this, he took a large glove, and, putting it on his right hand, plunged it into the glass; where touching the dwarf, he said to him, "Come, make haste." Uriel immediately made a movement, and placed his hand upon a letter. The Magician pulled off his glove, to write the letter upon a paper that was on the table, where was also pen and ink. Having again put on the glove, he placed his hand in the globe, and again touched the dwarf, who had the docility to make a new movement, and his hand stopped at another letter.

Our enchanter did this ten or twelve times; after which, having examined the letters written, he assured the Genevan that

his father had only three months to live; which information gave this kind-hearted affectionate son infinite joy. He began the same ceremony for the other Genevan, who flattered himself that he should not leave the cavern with a less favourable prediction ; and he had the happiness to hear that he was on the point of losing his wife. For the misfortune of these gentlemen, however, these oracles turned out to be false. The manner in which I was convinced of this, I will now relate.

The Magician having performed his operations before witnesses who had a great deal of credulity, was puffed up, like a priest of Delphi, with the pleasure of having deceived them : when I took it into my head, without knowing why, to look at the glove which had touched Uriel. Upon examining it closely, I found, at the end of the fore-finger, a hard substance that surprised me. "What is this ? What have we here ?" cried I : "Is not this a loadstone ?" The mountebank, who was not the only one who attended to this question, was

now confused; and turning with great shame towards my companions, "Gentlemen," said he, "had not I reason to distrust this Spaniard?" "That is what we wish to know," said they: and upon examining the glove, and finding, in fact, that it contained a loadstone at the end of the fore-finger, they were obliged, although very reluctantly, to doubt the truth of the conjuror's predictions, and began to laugh at their own credulity.

The pretended cabalist, finding he was discovered, at once changed his tone, and owned all. He told us that Uriel's body was composed of osier, and his arm was covered with plates of iron. He shewed us the artful manner in which he drew it, with his glove, towards the letters marked round the globe. Afterwards, he entreated us to keep the secret; and wished us to understand, that he did no harm to any one, but only deceived the credulous. As he only predicted agreeable things, they always left him very well satisfied: and as it sometimes happened that his oracles were accomplished, he had

acquired a reputation, by which he gained a livelihood.

After promising to keep this impostor's secret, we left him in his cavern, much mortified that he could not reckon us among his dupes; and took the road to Empoli, laughing at Uriel, and the fools who go to consult him. On the following day we arrived at Florence.

We took up our lodging in a famous inn at the court end of the city; and two days after, my companions left me to return home. We parted, as is usual in such cases, with many expressions of regret on both sides, which each forgot in a quarter of an hour after separation. Amongst many gentlemen who came to dine at the ordinary in this inn, were at times some arrant rogues. One day, as we were sitting down to table, a handsome well-dressed cavalier entered the room, and, taking a chair, scarcely ever, during the whole time of dinner, took his eyes off me. I perceived it, and consequently looked more attentively at him than I otherwise should have done.

I at length recollected him to be one of the passengers who had come with me from Palermo to Leghorn: he told me, after dinner, that he also recollected me. "Señor," said he, "we have been together upon the sea :" and I answering that I remembered him, we engaged insensibly in a long conversation.

He informed me that he was a Sicilian ; that his name was Roger Matadori, a native of the village of Aderno, in the Valley of Demona, at the foot of Mount Gibel ; that he lived very pleasantly at Florence with some friends of the same disposition ; and nothing but my society was wanting to complete their happiness. Being taken with the agreeableness of his countenance, and his general appearance, I thought I could not do better than join their society. He introduced me, immediately, to two very good-looking young men, who received me with open arms, and introduced me into some of the best houses in the city ; where, in the company of some beautiful women of their acquaintance, I was much delighted. At length, my funds beginning to run low,

and having no means of replenishing them, as my companions had, who expended as much as myself, I became melancholy, in proportion to the ebb of my fortune.

My friend Roger having perceived this, said to me one day, “Señor Gonzalez, you have something on your mind which makes you unhappy. I guess what it is: you begin to want money.” “Exactly so,” said I; “and, what is worse, I do not know where to get any.” “Whenever you please,” said he, “you may supply yourself, without having recourse to your friends: you have only to follow the employment I do: you will lead an independent life, and acquire a very good maintenance.” I asked him what this employment was. “I will tell you,” said he. “You must know, that in this city there is an old Catalan, of the name of Don Rodriguez de Centella: this officer was head of the Miquelets in Spain; and acted with the troops under the Great Duke with honour: he is a very pleasing companion; and his employment is to administer justice in civil life. He employs spies to give him

information of all offences and outrages committed in Florence. He keeps a register of the injured parties ; and if they pay him, he avenges them.” You may well imagine, that a man who carries on such a trade does not exercise it openly. He is as secret as possible. As soon as a spy has discovered that any one has received an affront, he makes his report to Don Rodriguez, who immediately sends a proposal to the offended party, for a certain sum of money, to punish the offender according to the nature of the offence ; and if the former accept the proposal, which almost always happens, the captain pronounces sentence, and it is executed by his spies, to whom he gives part of the reward.”

Hastily interrupting Roger, I said, “ And you are apparently one of these valiant executors.” “ Without doubt,” replied he : “ I am one of the spies of Don Rodriguez, as well as the other two young men whom you are acquainted with : one is a Sicilian like myself, the other a Venetian.”

“Truly,” said I, my good friend, with a laugh, “the employment you mention is a very dangerous one, and in no wise suits me. I am sure I should acquit myself very ill in it. Although I have been a surgeon, I am not bloody-minded: and what is more, I will honestly confess to you that I do not feel courage sufficient to undertake such a calling.” “You are very soft,” said the Señor Matadori: “I am not more courageous than you: courage is a gift that Heaven bestows on very few people in the world; and I will honestly tell you, that if I were to be obliged to attack a brave man, and run any risk, however lucrative my employment might be, I would renounce it tomorrow. Undeceive yourself, therefore: we are in no danger. What have we to fear? falling upon a man who is taken unawares? we stab him, or shoot him through the head: it is a business soon settled.”

“Whatever arguments you may use to make me wish to augment the number of Don Rodriguez’ spies,” said I, “they will be in vain. I do not like to earn my bread in

that way. The very idea of assassination makes me tremble with horror."—"I doubt it not," said he; "the prejudices of education will produce this effect on you. I recollect, that at first I was shocked at it, as you are: I revolted with horror from the idea of shedding blood; or rather, I felt afraid. The captain appeared to me a very wicked scoundrel: but when I saw the admirable manner he had of condemning offenders, I considered the thing in a different light. He examines, with the most scrupulous equity, all the circumstances of the offence committed: afterwards, he consults a book which he has written, and which treats of all sorts of possible and impossible injuries, with the reparation which ought to be made for them according to the laws of honour. He has no other code of law than that; and upon it he decides with a safe conscience, like a criminal judge, who believes he has done his duty."—"By the living God," said I, "I recognise the Spaniards in this impious and cruel code: they dearly love revenge: I am not astonished at its being said that they have expunged the sixth commandment from

the Decalogue. For my own part, although I am a Spaniard like them, I keep that commandment strictly; and I wish I were religious enough to keep equally strict all the rest."

"After what I have told you of our community," said Roger, "you may see plainly that our captain, though a Catalan, does nothing contrary to humanity, in his tribunal; for he never condemns to death, but for actions extremely outrageous; as you shall see in our code, which we always carry in our pocket, and term our *Breviary*." So saying, he shewed me a small manuscript book, in the Castilian language; and read several pages to me, which, among other particulars, contained these:—

1. Poignard the traitor, who, after having engaged a man in a perilous affair, leaves him all the difficulty of extricating himself.
2. Shooting through the head, for a gallant, who endeavours to seduce the wife of a man jealous of his honour.
3. Let the miserable wretch perish by the stiletto, who repays with ingratitude the

kindness his friends have conferred upon him.

4. If any Aristarchus, either in prose or verse, be rash enough to censure the works of the illustrious dead ; those celebrated authors, whose memory is respected by all the world ; we condemn him to the punishment which the Romans called *Fustuarium*—being beaten to death with large rods.
5. Two slaps in the face for every libeller, who injures the reputation of an honest citizen.
6. A slap on the naked bottom for every old maid who defames her pretty neighbour.”

One may judge, from these articles, of all the rest of this extraordinary code, which I returned to Matadori, with an observation, that I preferred service to the trade of spying for Don Rodriguez. “ You are wrong,” said he : “ Now that I am accustomed to it, I exercise it without repugnance ; and the great profit I derive from it, makes it even pleasant to me : that is the light you

should view it in: if you had touched the profits of two or three expeditions only, you would take as great a liking to it as I do. We have sometimes fine business to do: to-morrow evening, for example, we shall have one that will divide thirty pistoles to each, as soon as the work is done. In this city there is a young gentleman, a Spaniard, who is in love with the wife of a rich citizen; and the gallant, every night, hovers about the house where the lady resides. The husband has promised us a thousand crowns for getting rid of him: he has paid part in adyance; and he will pay the rest the morning after the work is finished."

"Perhaps," said I, "this Spanish cavalier will not suffer himself to be assassinated so easily?" "Pardon me," said Roger; "he is a man who comes alone every night, as if he had no evil to apprehend. Entirely wrapped up with his passion, and without suspicion of his danger, there will be no difficulty in surprising him. We wished to have attacked him to-night; but Don

Rodriguez will never depart from his rules, and objects to taking away the life of a man without perfectly knowing him : he understands that his name is Don Christoval, and that he is a Castilian. I have said much to persuade him that it is enough. ‘No, no,’ he says; ‘I must know, besides, what is his family ; and I charge you to make the inquiry to day, so that to-morrow nothing may prevent our operations.’ ”

I trembled at the name of Don Christoval, and feared it was my former master ; and the more alarmed at it, as I was not ignorant that he had a liking for the fair sex. Not being able to remain easy in such uncertainty, and anxious to extricate this young nobleman from impending danger, I pretended, at last, that I was willing to become spy to the captain. “ You have only,” said I to Matadori, “ to tell me where this proscribed Spaniard lives ; and, rest assured, I will bring you a good account of him this evening.” Roger, supposing that I entered with all my heart

into his views, was highly delighted: he complimented me upon it; and after informing me where Don Christoval lived, he entrusted to me the task of finding out who were his relations. He then went to his comrades, to announce that henceforward I should share with them the profits of their trade.

I cannot describe the impatience I felt to see this Castilian cavalier, whose life was in such imminent danger. He lodged at an inn at a distance from ours, and where the Spaniards commonly lived. I went, firmly resolved to tell this Don Christoval of the danger with which he was threatened: and I had no occasion to address myself to the host, to question him; for almost the first person I saw, on entering, was Don Christoval de Gaviria. We recollected each other instantly. I bowed; and, taking one of his hands, kissed it with so much eagerness of joy, that I could not utter a word. On his part, whether the friendship he formerly felt for me revived; or whether the joy I exhibited at

our meeting affected him ; certain it is, he felt my emotion, and could not help embracing me. He told me he was very happy to see me : " Yes, my friend," said he, " let us thank Heaven that we meet again, after so long separation. I have been in Italy fifteen months. My uncle, the Bishop of Salamanca, insisted on my taking this journey ; and I am very well pleased that I have stayed longer at Florence than I thought of doing, since I have met with you. And you, Gonzalez ; what are you doing in this city ? are you here in any good situation ? what have you been about since the unhappy day of our separation ?"

I gave him a faithful recital of my adventures, up to my meeting with Roger ; but I forbore mentioning, for the present, the purport of my visit. When I had ceased speaking, he said, " Señor Gonzalez, I find, with pleasure, that you are come to live with me again : but as it would be a disgrace to a man who has been page to a Viceroy, to become footman to a simple gentleman, I will

make you my Secretary: will that suit you?" "To perfection," said I: "there is only one circumstance which gives me uneasiness: the old Knight, who has such a knack at confounding the Latin Poets, may perhaps take it ill that I should be your Secretary." "The Knight is dead," replied he, "and there is nothing to oppose our re-union." "Very well," said I; "since you will have it so, let us begin to live together: have the same confidence in me that you once had, and I shall have the same zeal to serve you. Permit me to ask, however, what love affairs you have entered into at Florence? for I do not doubt but some new Bernadina amuses you with her favours." "It is true," returned he, "that I am seeking to ingratiate myself with a young *bourgeoise*, who is very handsome. For fifteen days I have paid her every attention, without success: but I do not love an ungrateful beauty. Her husband, who is an old silk merchant, goes to-morrow to Sienna, from whence he cannot return for three days. She has given me notice of it; and I shall in the night be introduced

into the house, by the footman, whom I have gained to my interest." "Take care of yourself, my dear master," exclaimed I: "you will there find death, instead of the happiness with which you flatter yourself."

These words, that I spoke with much emphasis, astonished Don Christoval.— "Gonzalez," said he, "explain yourself. What induces you to speak to me of such evil predictions? What can occasion such melancholy forebodings? am I, indeed, in a snare that I am ignorant of?" "Yes," said I, "you are in the greatest danger possible." I then related to him all that Roger had told me; and that, on hearing the name of Don Christoval, I had pretended to become a spy to Don Rodriguez, with the sole intention of saving the life of a man of honour. "You have conducted yourself very adroitly in this affair," said my master; "and I feel the full force of the obligation I am under to you: but do not believe that these spy gentlemen shall hinder my keeping my assignation: I shall go, accompanied with some of the

brave Spanish cavaliers who lodge in this inn : they will not refuse to help me, in ridding Florence of these miscreants."

I tried to persuade Don Christoval that he would act more wisely in leaving the city next morning, at day-break. "That," replied he, "my honour cannot consent to. It shall never be said, that the fear of assassination made me fly." "And will you not be under the necessity of flying," said I, "if you kill Roger and his comrades?" "Oh, my child," said my master, "that is not the same thing ; there is no shame in flying from justice, when you are in danger of falling into its hands."

I did not at all approve of the determination of the Señor de Gaviria, and still argued against it in vain. I found it impossible to make him relinquish his design. He went directly to communicate it to the Spaniards, whom he wished to accompany him ; and these gentlemen entered into the scheme with as much joy as if it had been a party of pleasure.

While they were diverting themselves with the idea of the expedition, I returned to my inn; where, according to the plan I had concerted with my master, I told Roger that the cavalier, respecting whom he wished for information, was Don Christoval de Gaviria, a man of illustrious descent, and of large possessions in Arragon, where he was born. "That is enough," said Roger; "to-morrow we will give him a passport for the other world; and neither his nobility nor fortune will be able to prevent his taking the journey." Accordingly, the next evening, the three spies of Don Rodriguez prepared themselves to strike the blow. Each one armed himself with a long rapier, a poignard, and a pistol; with which they placed themselves in ambuscade, near the house of the lady who was the cause of these fatal preparations. They did not wait a long time for Don Christoval; but seeing him come with three cavaliers, who they perceived had swords in their hands, instead of attacking them, they judged it most prudent to retire; which they did with the greatest

precipitation, having first discharged their pistols at the Spaniards, in a manner that was like firing powder at sparrows. Don Christoval and his friends pursued them in vain, having to do with men who knew how to make good use of their legs: Roger, especially, had the knack of soon making a great space between himself and an enemy.

There was nothing now to hinder Don Christoval from going to his *inamorata*, and to revenge himself on the jealous husband, who had set a price on his head: but he preferred renouncing the idea of vengeance, rather than to continue an affair of gallantry which had nearly proved so fatal to him. He returned, therefore, to his hotel, with the other Spaniards: and thus terminated an adventure which would have been much more bloody, if the spies of Don Rodriguez had not been arrant poltroons. However, cowardly as they were, it did not hinder them from frightening me most heartily. "Mr. Gonzalez," said Matadori to me the following day,

“ what present did you receive from Don Christoval, for having warned him to be upon his guard last night ? for I am convinced, that if you had not given him this caution, he would have come alone to the assignation.” I would have denied the fact; but Roger stopped my mouth, by observing, that I might attempt to deceive others, but it would not do with him. “ Add to lies to treason,” said he. “ neither my companions, nor myself, can have the least doubt that it was you who performed this kind office for the Lord Gaviria: you have done your duty as a servant; and for my own part, I can pardon you: but my coadjutor, and the Venetian, are men I cannot answer for: you will do well to keep yourself on your guard against them.”

At this caution, which made me tremble in every joint, I thought it my duty to shew some resolution. “ If these gentlemen attack me,” said I to Matadori, “ I shall defend myself. If I am not naturally courageous, I have, at least, strength of mind sufficient to fight with great

determination, 'when I find it necessary to have a brush with any one.' " So much the better for you," said he; " for if, by accident, you meet them, you will have need of all your courage, to get safe and sound out of their hands." Roger, whose sole intention was to frighten me, succeeded completely, by talking to me in this style. The fear he inspired me with was so powerful, that, not believing myself in safety in my hotel, I left it immediately, to go and lodge with Don Christoval. To this precaution I added that of never going out into the city, or its environs, for fear of being obliged to shew my *strength of mind*. I led, as one may say, the life of a hare, for eight days: but at the end of that time, my master received a letter from Spain, which eased me of all my uneasiness.

The Bishop of Salamanca required his nephew to return immediately home, to marry the only daughter of the Governor of Saragoza, Count Villamediana: and the prelate added, that he expected he would

not refuse the lady. Don Christoval, who always paid the most devoted obedience to his uncle, made immediate preparation, therefore, to quit Florence, with his Secretary, a valet-de-chambre, and a footman; and repaired to Leghorn, to await for an opportunity of returning to Spain.

On our arrival at that place, we found that a Spanish vessel would be ready to sail in three days for Barcelona: we therefore took advantage of this opportunity; and our voyage was so fortunate, that we made it without experiencing any unpleasant weather, or meeting with any corsair from Barbary; a kind of miracle in those seas. As soon as we landed, we bought mules to pursue our journey to Saragoza.

When we arrived in this celebrated capital of Arragon, we dismounted at the first hotel; for Don Christoval would neither shew himself to the Count of Villamediana, nor to a mistress whom he had never seen in a travelling dress: but an hour after our arrival, a footman of the Bishop of Sala-

manca presented himself before us: "My lord," said he, to Don Christoval, "I have sought you from inn to inn, by order of my lord your uncle, who has been at Saragoza eight days: he is now with the Governor, where an apartment is also prepared for you: these two noblemen are quite impatient to see you. I will go and tell him you are arrived: I cannot carry them more welcome news."

I recognised, in the footman who came to speak to my master, my old companion at the university. Mansan, who was still living with the Bishop of Salamanca, also looked at me; and recollecting me, exclaimed, "How! Estevanille here!" "Yes my friend," said I, "my happy stars have made me find out my first master, who has had the goodness to take me again into his service." "I am delighted," said he; "and I can assure you, all my lord's servants will be glad, as well as myself, that you have recovered the situation you lost."

"My friend," said Don Christoval to his

uncle's footman, "you have, without doubt, seen the lady who is destined for my wife: will her beauty answer the eagerness with which I am going to unite my fate to hers?" "Sir," said Mansano, "Donna Anna will gain nothing from the picture I can give you of her. She is one of those animated beauties that one can only represent to their disadvantage; and over whom Nature hath spread charms, which hides all their faults from the eyes of men. You must see her, to be able to do her all the justice she merits. I will only tell you, that my lord, your uncle, could not have made a better choice for you." "After this assurance," said the Lord of Gaviria, smiling, "I can no longer doubt my happiness: I must trust to your discernment. Go, Mansano, go and announce to your master, that in a few minutes he shall see his nephew."

The footman returned to the Bishop of Salamanca; and Don Christoval put himself in trim to appear agreeable in the eyes of his intended bride. He dressed himself with great care; and when he thought

nothing was omitted to set off his person to the utmost advantage, he waited on his uncle. This affectionate prelate shed tears of joy on seeing him ; and said, on embracing him, " My dear Don Christoval, your return will have additional charms for me, if your heart is not repugnant to the plan I have formed. The Count of Villamediana, my old friend, has consented, out of regard to me, to give you the preference over many cavaliers who are attached to his daughter. This match appeared to me so advantageous for you, that I have engaged your heart without consulting you : but do not imagine I will tyrannise over you, in a matter that so nearly concerns your future happiness. You shall, to-day, see Donna Anna: if you feel a liking for her, you shall be her husband in eight days ; and if, on the contrary, you do not find her to your taste, you shall not marry her. And I also warn you, that if you do not please the lady, the engagement is void : that is what her father and myself have agreed upon, to avoid the misfortune of uniting two persons who may not like each other."

“ My lord,” said my master, “ I owe you, without doubt, much gratitude for all the affection you shew to me; but I do not know if I have reason to rejoice at the latter clause; which, although it be very prudent, may be dangerous to me. Donna Anna is perhaps prejudiced in favour of another; and although I may not please her, she may charm me, and, at the same time, conceive a perfect aversion to me.” “ It is right to be modest,” said the prelate, with a smile; “ but at your age, and with your person, there is no reason why you should not have a little confidence in yourself. I will even tell you, to encourage you, that I have too good an opinion of your person, to imagine that a young woman will not look upon you with favourable eyes:—but we shall soon see. I will first introduce you to the Count of Villamediana; and we will go afterwards and salute the Countess and her daughter.” At these words, the Bishop of Salamanca conducted his nephew to the apartment of the Governor.

It was impossible that any one could be

better received than Don Christoval was, by this old nobleman, who, struck with his handsome person, said, "Donna Anna must be very difficult to please, if she be not satisfied with a young man like this." The Bishop, on his side, praised the lady; and politely said, he could answer for the heart of his nephew doing justice to the lady's charms, at their first interview. However, although the Bishop and the Count appeared convinced of what they said, they felt a little apprehension that some unaccountable caprice might intervene to destroy their plan. In order to ascertain immediately what foundation they had to build on, the young lover was taken to the Countess; where was also Donna Anna, superbly dressed, and looking extremely beautiful. Nothing but civility passed on either side, on this first visit: not a word was said of the projected alliance. They wished, before the matter was discussed, to be assured that those who were most interested should feel no repugnance to each other.

As soon as the Count had an opportunity

of speaking to his daughter, he asked her what she thought of Don Christoval; and if she should object to have him for a husband. She frankly replied, that if she was ordered to receive his hand, she should obey without a murmur. As for my master, he did not wait for his uncle's asking him the question, to own that the daughter of the Governor of Saragoza had triumphed over his liberty; and from that moment he was wholly prepossessed in favour of the lady. "Ah, Gonzalez!" said he to me, "I have seen Donna Anna.: Mansano might well say that her picture could not be drawn without diminishing her attractions. She has some defects, undoubtedly; but she has such sparkling eyes, they dazzle the understanding, and prevent one looking upon her with indifference." "My dear master," said I to Don Christoval, "you are much taken with Donna Anna. The lady on her side does not seem less so with you." "I dare not flatter myself with so much happiness," said he: "Oh sir!" said I, "you must not say so: you must have a better opinion than you have of your sex. If men find themselves

captivated with ladies, why should you suppose ladies, on their side, look on men with indifference? If I were in your place, I should think of my own merit: I should suppose, without hesitation, I had captivated the heart of a beauty, who had taken possession of mine."

The Lord of Gaviria was not long in finding out that he had pleased the daughter of the Governor. The Count was informed by the Bishop of the tender impression that the lady had made upon him; and ordered, without loss of time, the necessary preparations for their marriage, which was solemnized some days after, with all the magnificence due to their rank. Great rejoicings were made; and the Governor gave a ball, at which all the principal nobility in Arragon were present. In the midst of the entertainment, a mask, habited as a Frenchman, approached my master, and said, in a low voice to him, as he took his hand: "*My lord, I entreat you to be to-morrow morning, by sun-rise, on the road to Gallego, to receive the compliments I have to pay you on your*

*marriage; and which can only be done in private.*" Don Christoval, full of courage, replied to the unknown, without a moment's hesitation,—"*Whoever you are, be assured I will meet you; and perhaps I may be there first.*"

My master affected to say these words with a laughing air; and kept his countenance so well, that no one of the company had the least suspicion of what passed. At the end of the ball, which lasted till quite morning, he secretly escaped from the company, under pretence of enjoying the freshness of the morning air, in a walk by the side of the Ebro. He then proceeded to the stable, took a horse, and, leaving the castle, soon got into the road to Gallego. The unknown waited for him at the entrance of the village: they perceived each other at the same instant; and, pushing on their horses to meet, were soon opposite to each other. Don Christoval spoke first. "I recognise you," said he to the unknown, who still had on his disguise; "and before you begin with the compliments you have to pay

me on my marriage, and which you have obliged me to receive on the highway, tell me who you are, and what is the cause of this behaviour?" "Most willingly," said the unknown: "learn that my name is Don Melchior de Rida: I am one of the unhappy lovers who have long adored Donna Anna, sacrificed to you by the Count her father. I am too envious of your happiness, to endure the sight of it: and since I have not been fortunate enough to obtain the object of my love, I will not suffer her to be possessed by another. In saying these words, he dismounted, and tied his horse to a tree. My master did the same, and a fierce battle instantly ensued.

Don Melchior was a better fencer than Don Christoval; and gave him, at the first onset, a wound above the left breast: but, happily, the point glanced off on one side. The Lord of Gaviria, to avenge himself, made many strong passes, which were adroitly parried; and others were pushed at him, which he had the good fortune to ward off.

In short, the two combatants fought for more than a quarter of an hour, with equal fury, and with almost equal success. At last, however, Heaven, willing on this occasion to favour the good cause, permitted that my master should give his enemy a decisive blow, which laid Don Melchior dead at his feet. The conqueror now mounted his horse, and returned to Saragoza; leaving on the field of battle the unfortunate gentleman who had dared to call him out.

When Don Christoval returned to the castle, he gave a detail of this adventure to his father-in-law and uncle. These gentlemen held a council upon it; and agreed, as the family of Don Melchior had ~~so~~ interest at Court, that it would be most prudent for my master to remain concealed, in some safe asylum, till the affair could be arranged. They were a long time before they could fix upon a place for his retreat; but, at last, they thought of the Castle of Rodenas, belonging to the

Bishop of Albarazin, an intimate friend of the Count.

My patron passed the day in preparations for his departure, and in concerting with his uncle and father-in-law the best means of keeping up communication with each other: afterwards, having retired into the apartments of his wife, they employed two-thirds of the night in lamenting the separation which came so soon to interrupt their happiness. He set out a few moments before day-break, with his valet-de-chambre, a footman, and myself; all four mounted on the best horses in the Governor's stables. In three days, we arrived at the market town of Langares; and continuing our road in the same direction, we came to the city of Daroca, where we passed the night.

The following morning, by day-break, we resumed our journey; and, by a road across the mountains, we arrived at the town of Villafranca, where we stopped. There we inquired for the Castle of Rodenas,

and had the pleasure of hearing that we were only a short distance from the place, and that the Bishop of Albarazin was actually there. Don Christoval immediately dispatched me to the Prelate, to put into his own hands a letter which the Count of Villamediana had written to his lordship, entreating him to grant an asylum to his kinsman.

I accordingly repaired immediately to the palace, which seemed magnificent, and kept up in great state. I had no sooner said that I came on the part of the Governor of Saragosa, than I was conducted to his lordship ; who, being a great lover of music, had a concert, vocal and instrumental, then performing in his hall. He came to me, ~~on~~ my being announced to him. I presented to him the Count's letter; which having read, he took me with him into his closet, and said, " The Count of Villamediana does me too much honour, in preferring this castle to any other asylum he could have found for his kinsman. I am so sensible of

this new mark he has given me of his friendship, that I shall not fail to do all in my power to shew my acknowledgment of it. Return to Saragoza," said the Bishop, " and assure thy lord the Governor, that I await the arrival of Don Christoval with impatience." " You will not wait long, my lord," said I: " he is here, just by: I have left him at Villafranca, at an inn." " So much the better," said the Prelate: " Go immediately back to him, and bring him here; and you may also tell him, he will be received by one of the best friends of his father-in-law."

I made short work of returning to my master, with the agreeable intelligence, that the Bishop of Albarazin would be most happy to receive him. He was so well pleased with it, that he set out directly with me for the Castle of Rodenas.

This prelate did not fail to confirm his words by his actions. He gave the most hospitable reception to Don Christoval, and had a long conversation with him upon his

affair of honour: he then regaled him with supper, accompanied with music; after which, he conducted him, in person, to the best apartment in the castle, and left him to repose.

To do justice to the Bishop, I must say, he was one who did honour to episcopacy. He was of the House of Osorio, and much graced the nobility of his descent. He had a large revenue, which allowed him to keep a most hospitable house, a handsome equipage, and a fine band of musicians: he was, besides, very charitable, and gave his superfluities to the poor; but unfortunately for them, his establishment was upon a very grand scale.

The next day, the prelate shewed his guest all the gardens of the castle, which were well worth seeing. Parterres, ornamented with an abundance of the most fragrant flowers, and avenues of fine trees, formed a most delightful feast for two senses. In one part were water-works, supplied by the river of Xiloa, which flows near; with

fountains throwing the water to an immense height, sporting proudly in the air, and then falling with great force into marble basons. In another part, a vast aviary of brass network, filled with all sorts of the most rare birds, formed a fine concert with their delightful singing. In a word, this garden seemed the work of fairies. The place was altogether so enchanting, and the Bishop had spent so much in improving it, that he passed much more time here than at his Episcopal palace of Albarazin, which is only six leagues off. The park to the castle is no less magnificent : the castle is seated on an eminence, in the midst of it. It abounds with fine oaks, and lofty cork-trees, beneath whose hoary spreading branches are seen, bounding and skipping, numerous herds of beautiful deer.

Two days after our arrival at Rodenas, Don Christoval said to me, "Gonzalez, we live, as you see, in a charming retreat; and what makes this solitude so much more pleasing to me, is, that the Bishop is so well acquainted with the duties of hospitality.

This information I ought to give immediately to the Count of Villamediana, my father-in-law ; he will be delighted when he hears of the kind attentions paid me here: you shall set off to-morrow, to give him an account how happily I am situated. I made all haste, therefore, in preparing to return to Saragoza. My master gave me a long letter for the Governor, and another, equally long, for Donna Anna. I had also a letter from the prelate; who, besides, obligingly charged me to say to the Count, how much he felt indebted to him for giving him so amiable a guest as Don Christoval. I passed through Villafranca ; and, following my route between the mountains, I went on quite to the source of the Guerva, where I lost myself. Instead of coasting along this little river, on the side of Daroca, I took the other side ; and, after some hours travelling, I found myself at a sort of hermitage. At the door was an old man, whose venerable air made me regard him with respect. He wore a long robe of coarse cloath, of a darkish colour, and his head was covered with a

simple cap of net-work ; a grey beard descended to his breast, and he held a rosary in his hand.

“ My father,” said I, “ tell me, for heaven’s sake, where I am, and if I can find an inn near ? ”—“ You are,” he replied, “ two leagues from Belchite, and three from Romana. You will find no resting-place till you come to either of these towns, and there is not length of day enough remaining to allow you to reach either before night : if you will accept a lodging in my hermitage, I offer it with all my heart : you can to-morrow morning continue your journey.” Distrust, says a Castilian author, is the preservation of life. I remained some moments in uncertainty, what I ought to do. The good recluse guessed my thoughts, and said to me, smiling, “ Señor Cavalier, cease to suspect my habit of a hermit : it is sometimes worn by honest men.” These words put an end to my fear. I dismounted ; and returned thanks to Heaven for meeting with so much hospitality.

The old man took me first into a court, where he called a servant, who was also clad as a hermit, and ordered him to take care of my horse: he then conducted me into a hall, where I found raised benches, and upon the walls representations of St. Anthony, St. Pacome, and other anchorites. Hence he conducted me into a small chamber, in which were two small beds. "You see," said he, "my bed, and that of any cavalier whose ill-fortune obliges him to sleep in this retreat."— We went afterwards into a chapel, where the holy man usually made his prayers and meditations; and then into a large garden, filled with all sorts of fruit-trees. He attracted my attention to them, by saying, "Look well at these trees; they are my butchers, bakers, and friends: my servant and myself live all the year on the fruit they produce: we have no need of any other provisions. The sheep and other animals, which men slay to satisfy their sensuality, we leave to graze on the mountains; and, far from spreading snares for birds, we take a pleasure in seeing them

enjoy their liberty. We eat only fruits and roots, and drink nothing but water. Our ~~cellar~~ is in this garden; it is a fountain of pure water, and incomparably superior to the best wines. You ~~would~~ be convinced of this," said he, " if only during three months you lived here the life of a hermit."

I smiled at these words, which led the Recluse to observe, that I had a vitiated taste. " Oh! very much so, good father," said I: " certain wines of Spain, and others I have drank in Italy, appear to me much preferable to the liquor of which you boast so much." " Then I pity you," returned he; " for I have only water to offer you with my fruit." " I thank you," said I: " fruit I like; and, besides, the night will soon pass away." After walking round the garden, my host took me into his refectory: it was a small parlour, where were written, on the walls, sentences on abstemiousness. We seated ourselves at a table, on which was neither table-cloth nor napkin, only two earthen plates filled with various sorts of fruit; and

a large pitcher, with two goblets of the same materials.

If I ate and drank little, I did not want for agreeable conversation, well seasoned with instruction, that the Recluse gave me, upon contempt of the things of this world. I was charmed with his discourse. "Father," said I, after listening to him for some time, "I judge you have played a fine game in the gay world in your time; and if I were certain that it would not be considered too great a liberty, I should presume to ask by what chain of adventures you have become an inhabitant of this hermitage. "I am well pleased to satisfy your curiosity, my son," said he; "for I hope you will derive some advantage from my recital." Accordingly, he began in the manner following.







